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Local family star in Ty Hafan's Christmas appeal - see full story on page 3.

Royal British Legion's donation to Porthcawl Museum - see page 3.

"Persistent and determined in his offending"

School ICT technician jailed for sexual abuse

A SCHOOL ICT technician who abused his position of trust to groom and sexually abuse a child was jailed for five years on Monday, December 10, at Cardiff Crown Court.

Alex Barnes, aged 22, of Bridgend, pleaded guilty to nine sexual offences at a previous hearing.

He pleaded guilty to five counts of sexual activity with a child, three counts of inciting a child to engage in sexual activity and one count of penetrative sexual activity with a child.

The court heard that while Barnes was employed as an ICT technician in a school, he groomed a girl who was under the age of 16.

The offences took place from February to March 2018.

The court heard Barnes used violence to control the victim by smacking her to the face and pulling her hair to demand sexual acts for gratification.

The defendant instigated the contact between himself and the victim.

Judge Daniel Williams also ordered Barnes to sign the sex offender register and made him the subject of a Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

Detective Constable Phil Colston, the officer in the case, said: "Barnes was in a position of trust and abused that position to prey on a young girl. He now has to pay the price for his actions.

"The defendant was persistent and determined in his offending. This has been a very concerning investigation due to the speed of the grooming and controlled coercive behaviour.

"Today's result is a testament to the bravery of the victim who has not only

shown considerable strength and courage to talk about the abuse she suffered, but also throughout the lengthy and complex investigation and court process.

"I hope today's sentencing gives her some comfort as she comes to terms with the abuse she suffered and attempts to rebuild her life.

"I also hope that it sends a message to anyone else who has suffered, or is currently suffering abuse, that they can come forward and any allegations will be taken seriously.

"I cannot imagine how difficult it must be to come forward to report such appalling crimes but I want to reassure anyone considering doing so that there is a whole range of support out there, not only from the police but from partner agencies who can help you through the entire process.

"Officers in the specialist child abuse investigation unit covering Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan will continue to work tirelessly to protect children and bring perpetrators of child abuse to justice."

Sexual abuse can be reported via 101, or to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

'Irresponsible' dog owners set to face fines of up to £100

FINES of up to £100 could be introduced to tackle issues with dog fouling and irresponsible dog ownership in Bridgend county borough.

A public consultation has begun over a proposal to fine dog owners who don't pick up after their pets in public areas. Anyone walking their dog without carrying a supply of dog waste bags could be fined too.

Failure to keep a dog under control in public areas would also become an offence. To impose the restrictions, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) would need to create a new 'Public Spaces Protection Order' (PSPO), but wants to find out what the public thinks first.

The consultation involves completing a short online survey, and residents have until February 26 next year to share their views.

Cllr Richard Young, the Cabinet member for communities, said: "We receive a lot of complaints about dog fouling in our communities. As a dog owner myself, I'm absolutely disgusted when I see irresponsible dog owners who don't clean up after their dogs, leaving their mess on our streets and green spaces. Anyone walking a dog should always be fully equipped with a dog waste bag ready to do the right thing. Your dog can't pick it up themselves!

"Despite considerable efforts to promote responsible dog ownership, it is still an issue. So, as well as introducing fines to tackle dog fouling, we're also proposing to make it an offence if a dog walker fails to put or keep their dog on a lead in public places when requested to do so by a council officer.

"We think that fines would act as a strong deterrent, but what do residents think? If you have a view on this matter, please have your say by completing the consultation."

The 'Public Space Protection Order Consultation' can be completed online at www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation before the closing date of February 26. A report will then be presented to Cabinet members of the local authority in April 2019.

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Getting very cross over Culverhouse'

IN The Gem of November 29, there were two letters on different subjects but linked by the environment.

The first letter was from the local Friends of the Earth expressing their concerns at the proposed route of the M4 south of Newport. The second letter expressed the frustration so many of us face with the road layout at Culverhouse Cross, presumably designed to increase the traffic jams at peak travel times. Both these concerns are linked to the environment.

The FoE letter raises concerns regarding the environment – the Gwent Levels – but fails to suggest an alternative to the long delays and polluting traffic jams experienced every day at the Malpas Tunnels. These jams frequently stretch as far back as Magor, with stationary vehicles, commercial and personal pumping exhaust fumes into the air to the detriment of the local environment.

While the second letter raised concerns regarding the road design at Culverhouse Cross, it should be noted that this creates long jams of vehicles, both from Barry and from the M4 which also pump fumes into the environment.

Unfortunately, the proposed link road from junction 34 to feed Cardiff Airport will do very little to reduce the jams or the pollution.

What, I believe, this demonstrates are the difficult decisions that we face balancing the needs of the environment with the needs of commerce and commuting. Please don't suggest the solution is public transport or electric cars as neither meet the main needs of commercial or personal transport.

David Ludlow, Barry.

Black bag operation?

IN recent times, there has been a lot of discussion about levels of recycling with some local authorities reducing the number of black bags they will collect from a dwelling.

We recently had a situation that was initially slightly funny, but thinking further, raised a concern.

Our black bag collection day is Wednesday. On November 21, we put out our black bag which was duly collected. On Thursday, November 22, we headed off to Scotland, returning on Sunday, December 2. Wednesday arrived, and I put out a black bag, at most 10 per cent full as we had been away the majority of the time. When my wife left for work, we discovered that someone had left a black bag, heavy and very full, to keep our virtually empty bag company.

This didn't particularly concern us, but raised the question of what would happen if the council decided to collect only one bag from each house.

Who would be responsible for checking the contents to determine if the bag contained our non-recyclable rubbish or if we had been left with someone else's rubbish?

If there is ever a move to reduce the number of black bags the council will collect, I trust they will take this into account.

David Ludlow, Barry

'Why should road system be changed just to help commerce and commuters?'

I WAS saddened to read Ian Walton's letter in a recent edition of The GEM, suggesting that instead of making changes to the road system at Culverhouse Cross to lessen commuter congestion, it would be better to build a costly new road to divert traffic, and the resulting pollution into the Ely Valley.

Is he not aware that the traffic pollution created would affect two schools and over 400 pupils, possibly causing lifelong harm, and that the route chosen by the Vale Council means bulldozing ancient woodlands and up to nine family homes, just so that he and other commuters can avoid delays at Culverhouse Cross?

Wales has a Future Generations Act to protect children from the harm that this generation might wish to cause them and protect their environment.

Glynis Lloyd, Tredodridge.

'What will the EU do next?'

THE Bank of England has described the worst-case Brexit scenario presented almost as fact.

Would it like to give us now the best-case Brexit and the worst-case for staying *in*, which might include losing control of our Armed Forces and UN seat, joining the Euro, quotas of economic migrants from Italy, EU income, property and corporation taxes, loss of so-called "grants" when Albania and other poor countries join the EU and continued payments to Brussels?

Armed forces and a tax system are about the only attributes of a nation state which the EU does not possess.

An army is now under discussion; a tax system will surely follow, although the EU has not had a clean audit report for more than 20 years.

Remainers accuse leavers of not knowing what they voted for, but neither Remainers nor anyone else knows what the EU will do next.

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge.

'Is it time to let the wrecking ball loose on Barry?'

IN response to the recent letter from Ian Dowdell, I wholeheartedly agree the town of Barry is a let down to its residents.

The houses may have had a facelift, but that has done nothing toward providing a shopping centre for the town.

I rarely frequent the town as it has nothing for my needs.

The Tuesday market is a total waste of time; nothing changes and there is nothing new.

Shops have closed at a rate of knots so we are left with charity shops, banks, a shoe shop, a freezer centre, a clothes shop, Poundland, Greggs, a couple of jewellers and cafes.

I ask myself: "Why bother going to town?".

There is no bakery or greengrocer, and the council wants to charge parking fees to visit, plus £1 to have to use a WC.

The place is a dump and has been so for years.

If parking charges are enforced, the council may as well bring in the wrecking ball now and flatten the place... or is that the long term plan?

Anne Usher, Barry.

'Use the council tax system to collect donations'

WHILE visiting my daughter in Bradford, I spoke to the night porter of a local hotel.

This gentleman sends £150 a month back to his family in The Gambia.

He also sends chests full of dried foods etc for the community there. He told me his ambition was to buy a motorcycle ambulance for his village.

In the West, we can make a huge difference to the Third World. For example, local charity Vale for Africa has helped to fund the education of Bartholomew Gavannah, who has graduated with a Batchelor of Science degree (with honours) in chemical engineering. Vale for Africa works in Bartholomew's hometown of Tororo in Uganda.

An all-in-one inoculation was recently developed and for a few pounds, a child in a poor country could be protected against most fatal diseases.

I would like to see a change to the council tax system so people could make a voluntary contribution to help inoculations in the Third World. My wife and I don't have a private pension, but we would be happy to pay an extra £80 a year to help inoculate six children annually.

I continue to have meetings with politicians and I am hopeful that one day there will be legislation allowing this voluntary option.

Godfrey Knight, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL DECEMBER 20)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
13 Thur	09.54	8.5	22.10	8.3
14 Fri	10.34	8.2	22.55	7.9
15 Sat	11.27	7.8	23.53	7.7
16 Sun			12.29	7.7
17 Mon	00.59	7.6	13.39	7.8
18 Tues	02.16	7.9	14.48	8.1
19 Wed	03.18	8.2	15.43	8.6
20 Thur	04.12	8.9	16.34	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Local families star in Ty Hafan's Christmas appeal

TWO Bridgend families are the stars of a children's hospice Christmas appeal, aiming to raise funds to keep the hospice running all year round.

Kat Bancroft and Matthew Davies, who are the parents of Riley Davies from Maesteg and Rhian Wyatt, mother to Lilly May from Bridgend, feature in the Christmas appeal video of Tŷ Hafan's children's hospice, explaining that even during the Christmas holidays, the hospice's doors never close to the families who need it most.

For parents like Kat, Matthew and Rhian, Christmas is just another day in a medical routine; so the job of Tŷ Hafan, on the outskirts of Cardiff, is to bring a little bit of magic and festive cheer to families using the hospice, at what sometimes feels like the hardest time of the year for them.

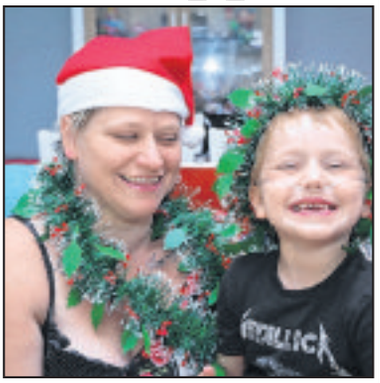
Riley, now seven, was born with interstitial lung disease: a rare, life threatening condition which makes breathing extremely difficult and means that he has to have constant oxygen.

When his brothers went to visit Santa in his grotto at the local shopping centre a few years ago, Riley was too unwell to go with them.

So, a group of staff at Tŷ Hafan arranged a visit to the family's home instead, bringing a very special guest with them – Santa himself.

"I will never forget the moment my little boy met Santa for the first time," said Kat.

"He froze with excitement. His little face lit up. He just couldn't believe his eyes. That was all thanks to Tŷ Hafan", she said.



Rhian and Lilly May.

In the first few months of her life, Lilly May from Bridgend was diagnosed with unsafe swallow and Leukodystrophy, a life-limiting brain condition that affects the central nervous system. Earlier this year she was also diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and is registered blind.

Her mother Rhian cares for Lilly-May's and looking after her little girl with her complex medical needs is Rhian's everyday life.

That's why being able to spend Christmas at Tŷ Hafan means so much to both mother and daughter.

"Magical. Amazing. Unexpected. That's Christmas at Tŷ Hafan. When we spent Christmas there it was magical and everything beyond", said Rhian.

Tracy Jones, head of community services and partnerships at Tŷ Hafan, said: "Our doors are open 365 days a year and we don't stop on Christmas Day.

"We continue to deliver critical care and our nursing team are here ready to respond, at a moment's notice, to medical emergencies and end of life phone calls.

"Our family support practitioners are on the end of the phone, dealing with emergencies, even during the Christmas period. We are always there."

Tracy continued: "Our children deserve a magical Christmas, it's a time to make memories for families to hold on to.

"Our nurses are on duty throughout the night delivering acute medical care so parents and siblings can get a good night's sleep, ready for Christmas day.

"When the children wake on Christmas morning, they are surprised with presents and a visit from Santa.

"Visiting Santa outside of the hospice is sometimes impossible for our children because of their conditions.Funds raised via our Christmas appeal means that we can continue to be there 365 days a year."

Visit www.tyhafan.org for more details. **AS**

Royal British Legion presents a 'Tommy' silhouette to museum

From left: Ray Street, Paul Joseph and Peter Buckle.

THE Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion has presented a Poppy Fund silhouette figure to Porthcawl Museum and the figure will be displayed alongside the museum's replica trench.

The silhouettes are near life-size and can be fixed to a wall or attached to an upright post in public or private spaces. In addition to this image of a 'Tommy' there are equally significant representatives of the members of the communities the nation says thank you to.

The silhouettes have at their base the words 'Lest we Forget', but any business or community group can buy or sponsor a silhouette and have its name incorporated in the base wording, as an act of Remembrance and support of the valuable work of The Royal British Legion.

On behalf of the museum, chairman Paul Joseph accepted the silhouette from Peter Buckle, vice chairman and Ray Street, chairman of the Porthcawl branch of the RBL. The museum was also presented with a Royal British Legion pennant to mark the 90th anniversary of the grand pilgrimage to France and Flanders made by 26,000 members of the families whose sons, husbands and brothers had made the ultimate sacrifice during the Great War.

Members of the Porthcawl branch travelled to Ypres in August to join 1,600 standard bearers and wreath carriers from Legion branches across the UK.

The Porthcawl branch collection for the poppy fund this year has raised over £13,000.

Bright young things attend event

SOME of Bridgend County Borough's brightest young minds have attended the first of this year's Seren Network events to help them target places at leading universities.

Based on last summer's GCSE results, 150 of the borough's highest achieving sixth formers will be invited to a series of workshops to understand more about the competitive application process for Oxbridge and other top universities.

The Seren Network has been set up in partnership by BCBC, sixth forms in secondary schools, Bridgend College and Welsh Government and follows the format of similar networks created elsewhere to address a decline in applications from pupils in Wales to Oxford and Cambridge.

This year's launch event was held at Bridgend College where the teenagers and their parents met university representatives from Oxford, Bath and the modestly-titled Brilliant Club.

Many of the students then went on to attend the national Seren Network conference in Newtown last week. They can also apply for summer schools and other residential experiences at leading UK universities as well as Yale in the USA. **AS**

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Local school needs a helping hand with its new eco-garden

The pupils have the ground, but they need the tools and materials to make their eco garden a reality. IMAGE by PHIL DAVIES.

WHEN Nantyffyllon Primary School decided to join the Keep Wales Tidy eco-schools project, the staff identified an area in the school yard that they would like to turn into a garden section for the children.

But there aren't any gardeners in the school so the staff and eco council sought help from Caerau Men's Shed which runs a successful allotment in Caerau.

Keen to help out, the 'boys' paid a visit to the school to see what was required and how they could help.

They were told what the school wanted to do for the children, but they had no tools or garden items available. In fact, all they have is a patch of grass in the school yard

Caerau Men's Shed will build any fences and paths required, turn the ground over and oversee the project so the children can concentrate on planting the vegetables and creating an area for bees and compost.

Can local people help?

The school needs bags of compost, weed membrane, pallets, garden tools, gloves, compost bin, water butt, watering cans, bamboo canes, onion sets, runner bean seeds, potato plants, beetroot plants, shallots, spring onions, leeks, lettuce, fruit trees and anything to help construct a vegetable patch.

Local people who want to help can contact the school on 01656 815740.

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Writers' circle awards evening

DECEMBER'S meeting featured the presentation of trophies, cups and certificates to this year's competition winners.

The Saviker Shield was won by John Bowdidge for his poem 'Little One' and memoir 'Memories of Wartime'; Claudette Evans received the runner-up Shield for her story 'The Great Gnome Mystery' and collected the Endeavour Shield for her journalistic effort 'Your Starter for Ten'.

Others receiving trophies were: Bridie Branwell - the Keith Cole Shield and Michael Hayes for his monologue.

Liz Mahoney was unavailable to collect her Railton Shield, and she also won the annual short play competition with her farce 'What a Shower'.

Entries were read and judged on the evening by Alex Marshall. **CM**

Post-16 education consultation ends on February 22

A MAJOR consultation over the future of post-16 education in Bridgend county borough is underway.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is reviewing whether the current provision should be altered to ensure that young learners have the best possible opportunities and is inviting the public to have their say.

A BCBC spokesperson said: "There are currently sixth forms in every secondary school in Bridgend County Borough, varying in size from 76 to 347 pupils. Around 40 pupils also attend the sixth form provision at each of the county borough's two special schools, while Bridgend College provides a range of vocational pathways for approximately 2,000 pupils aged 16 to 18.

"In the new public consultation, which is open until February 22, parents, pupils, teachers and other interested parties will be asked to say whether they would prefer to retain and improve the current sixth form system, or choose an alternative.

"The options include: closing all school sixth forms and instead developing a state-of-the-art sixth form centre, which could either be governed by the local authority or a further education college; having a mixture of school sixth forms with some mergers to create a new sixth form centre run by either the local authority or a further education college; or having a full tertiary model governed by the further education sector.

"Separate arrangements are being proposed for Welsh-medium and faith education. It is suggested that the collaboration between Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd with Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llanhari in Rhodda Cynon Taf should continue to develop, with Archbishop McGrath Catholic School continuing to form close relationships with other sixth forms and Bridgend College."

A full review of post 16 provision for young people with additional learning needs is also being carried out. Cllr Charles Smith, cabinet member for education and regeneration, said: "It has become clear that one size certainly does not fit all so we must be flexible and do everything in our power to create the best possible system that develops a skilled and well-educated workforce.

"Funding for sixth form provision in Bridgend county borough is provided by Welsh Government as a single post-16 grant allocation each year.

"This funding pot is gradually dwindling.

"Given the financial pressures faced by the local authority, secondary schools and Bridgend College, it's imperative to use our limited resources as boldly, efficiently and creatively as possible."

The survey can be completed at www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation, and paper copies are also available.

Charity helped out by local choir

W.H.E.R.E. is a charity based in the West Country whose aim is to support adults with a disability - physical, mental, those with long term health conditions, or loneliness.

On December 8 Maesteg Male Voice Choir made a trip to Wellington to assist in raising funds for this worthwhile cause, and despite an eventful start to their journey performed a "brilliant" concert (a member of the audience). A packed church joined in with the choir to sing the national anthem and the carol 'O Come All Ye Faithful' before the choir commenced the first half with 'Men of Harlech',

David Mayberry (baritone) then performed two pieces his voice really coming through with the excellent acoustics in the church before the choir completed the first half with 'Llef', 'The Lord's Prayer', 'Anfonaf Angel' and 'Rachie'. After a break the choir continued with 'Anthem' from Chess, 'Tell my Father', 'You Raise Me Up' and then 'Unchained Melody' before soloist Kevan Lloyd sang.

The concert finished with 'One Day More' and finally the superb carol 'O Holy Night' before the standing ovation brought an encore.

Musical director Huw Morgan acted as compere and his comic wit really entertained the audience, who were quite often in stitches with his comments. Accompanist Laura Deenik was excellent, as always. **AS**

Shutterbugs' award night

THE Porthcawl & Pyle Photographic Society recently held its annual Club Competition One, which is split into two sections: prints, and digital images, with a trophy for each.

Members could enter two images into each section. Rob Greenhill judged both competitions and not only awarded the points, but also provided an excellent critique on each image.

The winner of the Print Trophy was Glyn Edmunds with 'Julia'; the winner of the Digital Trophy was William Baker with 'South American Fur Seal'. Congratulations to Glyn and William. GB

Cuts to services, but BCBC spent £130,000 on Weslsh translation

FIGURES released by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) show that the Labour-run authority has spent almost £200,000 on Welsh translation costs in less than two years.

Last month the council confirmed that it paid more than £130,000 last financial year as it sent work to be translated into Welsh by external translation companies. In addition, the council has spent over £60,000 between April and November this year.

The figures were revealed after BCBC's Conservative group leader, Cllr Tom Giffard, submitted a Freedom of Information request.

Cllr Giffard said that the request was prompted after the deadline for submitting questions and motions for council meetings had been changed from five working days to 10 working days due to translation requirements.

"For a local authority the size of Bridgend to not have enough staff to be able to work in Welsh or translate work into Welsh when needed is staggering. It would be sensible and more cost effective for the local authority to employ a translator to do the work for them. The cost of wages and pension contributions would be considerably less than the £130,000 per year currently being spent."

Suzy Davies, Welsh Conservative AM for South Wales West who is also the Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education and Welsh Language, backed up Cllr Giffard's claims.

"I'm pleased to see that BCBC is working to meet the Welsh language standards which help council fulfil the rights of its Welsh speaking residents. Bridgend is not Gwynedd and it will be some time before staff can meet standards on bilingual working without translation support.

"However, it strikes me that they could do this more cost effectively by employing a member of staff to carry out translation work, and encouraging other staff to improve their Welsh language skills, rather than by spending six-figure sums per year on translation companies.

"This is, after all, taxpayers' money."

BCBC confirmed to Cllr Giffard that just 78 of the 1,235 jobs advertised by the authority since April 2017 had listed Welsh language skills as 'essential.'

Open day for Garw railway

ON December 15, the Garw Valley Railway in Pontycymer, Bridgend is holding its Christmas open day and annual raffle.

There are currently no trains running as the charity is in its building stages, but there is still lots to see and do. Come aboard some of their locomotives which have been decorated for the festive season, see the progress of the volunteers work and enjoy warming up over some festive refreshments.

The charity has recently finished building a platform to the side of their shed and have laid approx 300 yards of track. The Garw Valley Railway is also holding a raffle at the event, with tickets available on the day, and all money raised goes back into supporting the charity's projects.

Go to the Garw Valley Railway social media pages to find out more. **CJ**

Carol concert by Soar Chapel

MID Glamorgan Soar Chapel Rhiwceiliog Mixed Choir present a carol concert tonight (Thursday, December 13) at 7pm with collection; all welcome.

Follow us on Facebook - facebook.com/Glamorgan GEM

Extra bin bag for Christmas

HOUSEHOLDS in Bridgend county borough will be able to put out one extra bin bag this Christmas.

While residents are usually restricted to filling two bin bags each fortnight, each home will be permitted to put out one extra bin bag for their first refuse collection after Christmas Day.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has also confirmed that there will be some changes to waste and recycling collections over Christmas and New Year.

There will be collections on Christmas Eve but there won't be any collections on Christmas Day or Boxing Day, so everything will be picked up two days later than normal for the rest of that week.

Collections will be made as usual on New Year's Eve, but there won't be any collections on New Year's Day, so everything will be one day later up until Saturday, January 5. Collections will be back to normal from Monday, January 7.

Cllr Hywel Williams, the council's deputy leader, said: "As you can often be left with a mountain of rubbish at Christmas time that can't be recycled, we're going to relax the usual two bin bag rule so that households can fill one extra bag if they need to.

"The main festive item that can't be recycled is wrapping paper, while certain types of packaging can't either, such as black plastic, cellophane wrap and polystyrene.

"However, almost everything else can be recycled including your food waste."

To find out more about recycling in Bridgend county borough visit www.recycleforbridgend.wales

Bridgend Lions' donation to school

Members of Bridgend Lions Club are pictured presenting a cheque for £500 to Ysgol Bryn Castell's headteacher Helen Ridout at the pupils' assembly on November 30. Mrs Ridout was delighted to receive the donation, which is to be used for furnishing an outdoor learning area. CT

Orchestra says pay as you feel

FOR their upcoming Christmas Concert on Friday, December 14, Porthcawl Community Orchestra has put an end to conventional ticket pricing, opting instead for a 'pay as you feel' system.

"As a community organisation it's important that we make our music accessible to as many people as possible," said musical director Jack Bridger. "

The concert will take place at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, New Road, Porthcawl at 7.30pm on December 14. Tickets are available on the door and refreshments will be served during the interval. More information is available at www.porthcawlorchestra.co.uk

Founded in 2013, PCO play a wide variety of music and perform regularly at a variety of events and is comprised of professionals, students, adult learners and adult returners.

Jack Bridger

BAVO looks back at 2018

BRIDGEND Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) recently celebrated their past year's achievements at their Annual General Meeting at the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend.

BAVO has remained committed to delivering a wide range of high quality support services to local voluntary and community groups and organisations.

Via video, Michael Sheen, one of Wales' leading actors and campaigners for social justice and President of Wales Council for Voluntary Action said: "I know that it has been a very challenging year. But it is through great genuine, effective collaboration and solidarity, that those challenges I know can and will be met by all of the work that you are doing. So to all the volunteers, the community groups, the charities and the social enterprises, I want to say how important your work is, how valued it is and how grateful I certainly am for everything that you are doing for our local communities."

BAVO have responded to 5,119 enquiries, enabled 1,392 people to gain new skills through their training programmes and achieved £963,561 known new inward investment for local activity, facilities and causes – find out more at.bavo.org.uk.

Festive concert for local choir

TABERNACL Choir, supported by Oldcastle School Choir and Symphonic Brass, gave a very enjoyable concert at Tabernacl Church, Bridgend on November 30.

The congregation also joined in to sing traditional carols. Between the items. Tabernacl Choir performed a mix of contemporary carols such as 'The Cowboy Carol' and carols from other historic times such as Bach's 'O Little One Sweet' as well as popular well known Christmas songs like 'Sleigh Ride' and an unusual take on 'Jingle Bells'.

Most of these were short pieces but the choir also enjoyed singing the slightly more challenging 'Te Deum' by Rutter.

The pure young voices of Oldcastle School Choir delighted everyone. They skipped on to the stage and introduced themselves in song. They had chosen a series of songs that they simply loved to sing.

There were also a number of soloists whose confidence and clarity drew admiration from everyone listening. We also enjoyed the contribution of the group's young percussionist.

Symphonic Brass are a Bridgend group of young adults and teenagers.

They certainly know how to entertain an audience, and soon had us all clapping to the beat of their music. Their solo skills were greatly appreciated, as was the brightness of the group's sound.

They received a very warm reception, leaving us all too soon and wanting to hear more. What an excellent way to start the Christmas season!

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Consultation for £7.4m Welsh medium school opens in 2019

THE Vale Council wants to build a new £7.4m Welsh medium primary school at Barry Waterfront and a consultation on the plans could take place early in the new year.

The school would have space for 420 pupils and 96 nursery places.

It would absorb Ysgol St Baruc which has a capacity for 210 children.

On Monday, December 17, the Vale Council's Cabinet will be asked to approve a public consultation on a proposal that would one day see Ysgol St Baruc relocated to the new building.

The council says demand for bilingual education in Barry has increased by more than a quarter in 10 years.

It says current projections suggest that the Waterfront development will add further to the demand.

The council thinks its strategy to promote bilingual education, in line with the Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050' agenda, will also increase demand for Welsh medium education.

Vale Council Leader Cllr John Thomas said the move would see changes to catchment areas and more spaces available in other schools.

He said: "Welsh medium education is increasing in popularity and has seen significant growth since Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg opened in 2000.

"The council needs to plan its school provision in line with this.

"A new Welsh medium primary school on the Waterfront will remove the need for many pupils and parents to travel across the town to school each day.

"Alongside a remodelling of school catchment areas elsewhere in Barry this will lead to an increase in spaces at other schools."

Ysgol St Baruc operates from a Victorian building and a two-classroom block built in the 1980s. The council says it stands on "a very confined sloping site" which means it is unsuitable for expansion.

Classrooms are too small for the number of pupils and youngsters have to use dining facilities at nearby High Street Primary School because Ysgol St Baruc has no catering facilities on the site.

If the recommendations of the report are agreed by cabinet on December 17, the public consultation will run from January 8, 2019 to February 22, 2019.

Cllr Bob Penrose, Vale Cabinet member for learning and culture, said the new school was a key element of the council's £143 million 'Band B' programme, working with the Welsh Government to build a number of new and remodelled schools in the Vale.

Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson, whose ward includes the current Ysgol St Baruc site, welcomed the plans.

He explained: "I am pleased that the Vale Council have finally brought forward plans to upgrade Ysgol St Baruc.

"Earlier this year, an Estyn inspection report said that 'because of the lack of facilities on the school grounds, a majority of pupils have to walk to the nearby English school for lunch'.

"That isn't what parents should expect from a 21st century school.

"Moving Ysgol St Baruc to the Waterfront means that, for the first time, all parts of Barry will now be given a real choice of Welsh language education close to home, so that pupils can become bilingual and speak both Welsh and English from an early age."

England for the Vale

THE Welsh Conservatives have selected their candidate for the Vale at the next assembly election.

A spokesperson said: "Ross England is no stranger to the political scene in the constituency. Having fought for the seat in 2016, he achieved the highest share of the vote for the Conservatives ever recorded. Ross is clear about his priorities.

"Wales is falling behind the rest of the UK in the primary devolved areas of health and education and that is simply not good enough. Council tax and business rates are too high, and that needs to change."

An outspoken critic of devolution, Mr England aims to directly challenge the Welsh Government on local issues he and Alun Cairns have been campaigning on for years.

The spokesperson said that Mr England will "raise fair funding for the Vale, support for high streets, and ending excessive development targets, on the floor of the Senedd."

He will also continue to push for a Dinas Powys by-pass.

Mr England said: "Devolution isn't working for the Vale of Glamorgan. The Welsh Government underfunds our council, chokes our high streets with higher business rates than in England and has cut subsidies for local bus services. It is dragging its feet over the Dinas Powys by-pass, forcing the overdevelopment of our green spaces, and threatens to merge the county with Cardiff.

"I am standing to make the case for a different way forward that puts more power in the hands of local authorities such as the Vale and stops Wales slipping further behind the rest of the UK," he concluded.

The next Welsh Assembly election is due to take place on, or before, May 6, 2021.

School ICT technician jailed for sexual abuse

A SCHOOL ICT technician who abused his position of trust to groom and sexually abuse a child was jailed for five years on Monday, December 10, at Cardiff Crown Court.

Alex Barnes, aged 22, of Bridgend, pleaded guilty to nine sexual offences at a previous hearing.

He pleaded guilty to five counts of sexual activity with a child, three counts of inciting a child to engage in sexual activity and one count of penetrative sexual activity with a child.

The court heard that while Barnes was employed as an ICT technician in a school, he groomed a girl who was under the age of 16.

The offences took place from February to March 2018.

The court heard Barnes used violence to control the victim by smacking her to the face and pulling her hair to demand sexual acts for gratification.

The defendant instigated the contact between himself and the victim.

Judge Daniel Williams also ordered Barnes to sign the sex offender register and made him the subject of a Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

Detective Constable Phil Colston, the officer in the case, said: "Barnes was in a position of trust and abused that position to prey on a young girl. He now has to pay the price for his actions.

"The defendant was persistent and determined in his offending. This has been a very concerning investigation due to the speed of the grooming and controlled coercive behaviour.

"Today's result is a testament to the bravery of the victim who has not only shown considerable strength and courage to talk about the abuse she suffered, but also throughout the lengthy and complex investigation and court process.

"I hope today's sentencing gives her some comfort as she comes to terms with the abuse she suffered and attempts to rebuild her life.

"I also hope that it sends a message to anyone else who has suffered, or is currently suffering abuse, that they can come forward and any allegations will be taken seriously.

"I cannot imagine how difficult it must be to come forward to report such appalling crimes but I want to reassure anyone considering doing so that there is a whole range of support out there, not only from the police but from partner agencies who can help you through the entire process.

"Officers in the specialist child abuse investigation unit covering Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan will continue to work tirelessly to protect children and bring perpetrators of child abuse to justice."

Sexual abuse can be reported via 101, or to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

News and views from Nancy Davidge, Tynewydd, Llangan. 01656 860303.

Christmas Celebrations

THIS year's Christmas celebration at Saron Chapel, Treoes, was an outstanding success.

The event took place on December 9 and children from Treoes and Llangan performed song and poetry and thanks go to Mary Lloyd for providing the music. Refreshments were provided at the village hall after the concert.

A country Christmas market in Cowbridge

COWBRIDGE Country Market wishes all its friends and customers a Very Happy Christmas.

Come along on Friday, December 14 at 9.30am to the Lesser Hall to find special last-minute goodies and some beautiful crafts. Please bring in your empty jam jars for our marmalade making in January.

Vale students reminded to register on the electoral roll

PUPILS in the Vale of Glamorgan are being reminded to register to vote.

The council is encouraging pupils aged 16 and over to enrol on the electoral register.

Up to 350 pupils at Cowbridge Comprehensive School heard at a recent meeting about the differences between the electoral and open registers, why one should register to vote and how to enrol.

Reasons include being able to vote in elections, being able to apply for credit or improve their credit score, and having a proof of residence and confirmation of identity, the pupils heard.

They were told "you have a choice, use your voice and shape your future".

The council currently works with some schools, residential and care homes and supported living residents however the team would like to increase their engagement activities with all schools, youth groups and community groups across the Vale to encourage as many eligible people as possible to enrol on the electoral register.

Linda Savory, electoral registration public awareness officer, who led a presentation at an assembly at Cowbridge Comprehensive, said there was a positive response from the school.

She said: "It was pleasing to find there were a lot of children that were registered already. We want to make sure every part of the Vale has that same opportunity.

"It's important for them to be on the register. It does give them many benefits."

The council would like schools and other groups to get in touch to help people register to vote.

Call Linda Savory on 01446 709 305, or email electoralregistration@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

In an earlier article by this writer on electoral roll data being sold by Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan councils, it was wrongly reported that National Insurance numbers and dates of birth are included in the data being sold but this is not the case. The writer apologises for any confusion caused.

The full version of the electoral register includes everyone's name and address, and is only used for elections, preventing and detecting crime and checking applications for loans or credit.

The Open Register is an extract of the electoral register, but it is not used for elections.

Electors can opt out of having their name included in the Open Register at any time by contacting their local Electoral Registration Officer.

The Open Register can be bought by any person, company or organisation.

Who can register?

Residents who are aged 16 or over, and are either a UK citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen resident in the UK, or an EU citizen resident in the UK.

People can register online at gov.uk/registertovote, call 01446 729552 or complete an invitation to register form. To register you'll need your national insurance number to hand.

Matt Discombe
Local democracy reporter

A world at play

FIFTEEN years ago Mike Emery founded the international children's charity World at Play.

Its aim was to give children whose lives were affected by war and poverty an opportunity to enjoy some of the normal things of life by playing, laughing and generally having fun together.

The Rotary Club of Llantwit Major, meeting at the West House Hotel, was told about the charity by visiting speakers Siobhan O'Reilly from the University of the West of England and Sarah Miller, a youth worker from Newport. The charity has been active in Croatia, Bulgaria and Kosovo and with impoverished countries in central Africa. They explained that language was no problem when children were encouraged to play without fear. Engaging handicapped children who were often confined to a bed was very rewarding when fun and laughter suddenly entered their lives.

In 2019 the charity will lead two expeditions to Uganda where there are currently 78,000 refugees, many of them children. Volunteers are self-funding and then join the charity overseas for up to 10 weeks at a time. The speakers said that they had found the experience of working with the charity personally life changing.

Rotary president Gareth Rees thanked them for their description of the charity and that a number of Rotarians served as trustees of World at Play. He was particularly pleased to welcome Peter and Tricia Emery, who had seen the charity their son had founded become so successful.

What a bright idea

AN opticians in Cowbridge has donated a number of reflective vests to a local nursery to help keep children stay visible this winter.

Specsavers on the High Street has donated 25 vests to Fun Foundations Day Nursery, where they will be worn by the children when on the school run or in the playground in the darker winter weather.

Hannah Davies and Andrew Moss, from the store visited the nursery to and out the vests.

Mr Moss said: "With Christmas on the horizon, winter is an exciting and fun time for children.

"However, the poor weather conditions and darker nights do put them at a greater risk when they are out and about.

"We're a community-focused practice and the wellbeing of Cowbridge's residents is of great importance to us."

Mandy Husk from the nursery said: "Road safety is particularly important at this time of year and these high-vis vests will be very useful for us as the festive period. I'd like to thank them both for spreading the message to our nursery children."

Councillor quits over school closure

A VALE councillor has resigned in protest at Vale Council plans to close Llancarfan Primary School, saying that it sets a "dangerous precedent for small rural schools in Wales".

Matt Lloyd, a Conservative, represents the Rhoose ward and, in his resignation letter, also voices concerns over issues that could arise from opening a new school there.

The Vale Council's plans for Llancarfan have led to long and bitter protests, and there is even a dispute over the terminology, with the council calling it a "migration" to a new school, while the Llancarfan protest group calls it – bluntly – a "closure".

In his resignation letter, he says: "During the consultation process, the representations made by both ward councillors and the campaign team were strongly made, but over time it has become apparent that it was to no avail. My own personal view therefore is that there the decision to close the current site was at least partially pre-determined from outset."

Christmas celebrations in Treoes

THIS year's Christmas celebration was an outstanding success at Saron Chapel, Treoes.

The event took place on December 9 and children from Treoes and Llangan performed song and poetry and thanks go to Mary Lloyd for providing the music. Refreshments were provided at the village hall after the concert.

St Mary Hill Church

A carol service will take place on December 16 at 11.15am conducted by Rev David Bold. A Christmas Day service will be held at 11.15am; everyone welcome.

Llangan and St Mary Hill Hall

A Christmas fair takes place at the hall on December 15 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm where there will be a variety of stalls and Santa's Grotto.

Lights on in Caerau Square

THE lights on the Christmas tree in Caerau Square were turned on this year by Ethan Thomas, a pupil at Caerau Primary School.

Ethan's design won the logo competition of the newly-formed Caerau Christmas Celebrations group. The group of residents was formed to organise and raise money for an annual Christmas tree and decorations in Caerau Square.

In spite of a very wet and windy evening, a large crowd heard the performance of live Christmas music by Matthew Derek.

The group followed Santa to Caerau Development Trust in Woodlands Terrace for traditional refreshments of mulled wine and hot chocolate and a visit to Santa's grotto.

Image by Phil Davies.

Carol singing by candlelight at St Illtyd's on Sunday

A WARM welcome awaits everyone attending this Sunday's Gaudete service at St Illtyd's Church, Newcastle, in Bridgend.

The service, which is always a popular part of Advent, comprises carols and readings, quite similar to the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge. It begins at 4.30pm, is open to anyone – whether a parishioner or not – and there will be mince pies, chocolate lollies, and mulled wine and soft drinks.

On Christmas Eve, beginning at 11.30pm, will be the first service of Christmas, while at 10am on Christmas Day will be Holy Communion.

Parish priest, Father David Lloyd, said:"I can't promise snow, but I can guarantee friendly faces and a warm welcome to all. Do tell your family and friends; the more the merrier."

For further information, telephone Father David on 01656 655999, or search Facebook for @ saintilltydbridgend.

Fr David Lloyd.

Nathan Conlon is appointed new NFU Group Secretary

NATHAN Conlon has recently been appointed as the new Group Secretary at the NFU Cymru/NFU Mutual Swansea office.

Born and bred in Pencoed he now lives in Coity, Bridgend with his wife and four children. They have a smallholding where they keep a small flock of Balwen sheep, a handful of chickens and a vintage grey Fergie tractor.

Nathan is no stranger to the NFU Mutual network, having worked within the company for 10 years. He was previously an assistant agent at the Brecon office for three years before joining the Bridgend NFU Mutual office, and in 2014 he became a partner there alongside Julian Kelly and David Harris.

Speaking upon his appointment Nathan said: "Having worked within the NFU Mutual network for many years I am really looking forward to the new challenge ahead of me. I look forward to getting out and engaging with the farming community, promoting the great work undertaken by NFU Cymru in providing a voice for Welsh agriculture.

"My aim is to be as visible and approachable as possible, and, by having a presence at key events, I will aim to listen to the membership to understand the local issues."

John Mercer, NFU Cymru director added: "Although Nathan is no stranger to the NFU Mutual network I would like to welcome him to the NFU Cymru team. He has a wealth of knowledge and understands the current issues facing farmers. His previous experience will allow him to provide first class advice and guidance to our local members on key policy issues."

Bridgend Bridge Club news

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

The mixed pairs competition was played over two Fridays: First, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; second, John Moore and Gill Wybrow; third, Gareth Jenkins and Emer Disley. The Celtic simultaneous Pairs competition was played on December 5: First, Rob Forman and Alan Heath; equal second, Tony Disley and John Evans, and Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage. The winners on handicap were Rob Forman and Alan Heath.

On December 6: First, Vida Halford and Emer Disley; second, Stuart Davies and John Henson; third Gareth Jenkins and Mike Williams. The winners on handicap were Vida Halford and Emer Disley. December 7: First, John Evans and Irene Thomas; second, Tony Disley and Jenny Vaughan; third, John Moore and Gill Wybrow. The winners on handicap were John Evans and Irene Thomas.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hallat 7pm. On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding. New members are always welcome. A new course of bridge lessons have started on Monday afternoons at Nolton Church Hall from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. Contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or email Steve at steve@steveburgoyne.plus.com.

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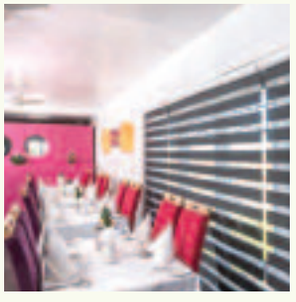

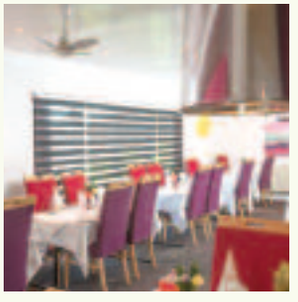

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Fonmon Apiary News

DESPITE the very varied weather the bees are out whenever the temperature is in double figures.

In-depth inspections are on hold at the moment. However, when the contents of the trays that are beneath the mesh floors of the hives are examined, lots of mites are revealed, and many are the pale, immature mites. In essence, I should only come across the dark brown mature mites. This would indicate that the bees have entered winter slow-down; the queens should have finished laying and no provision for the varroa mite to carry out its own reproductive cycle would exist. My observations are indicating the contrary.

In the coming weeks when I can see lots of external bee activity and there are pale mites still being observed in the tray debris, one of the colonies will be opened up and I will expect to find in the brood chamber eggs, larvae and sealed-over larvae that will eventually emerge as bees.

At this time of the year such an undertaking (the opening of a hive) would not be the norm!

But conditions are anything but the norm. There should be no eggs, no larvae and no sealed over larvae.

I would expect to observe a cluster (ball) of bees settled for the winter months and expending very little energy, surviving on the stores that have been put by in their expectation of harsh conditions to come; and definitely no external foraging. So is global warming revealing itself? This pattern of behaviour that the bees are adopting does suggest that a change is with us.

Just to make things clear, for the varroa mite to reproduce it requires a cell containing a larva that is about to undergo a change and become a bee. The varroa (female) has the ability to detect the correct cell and enter it just before it is sealed over with a wax cap. Reproduction can now begin.

Mother and offspring ensure their survival by feeding on the body fluids of the developing larva. After a 12-day period a new bee will chew through the wax capping and enter the hive; this action does mean that the varroa can also emerge into the hive. However, some of the young female varroa (pale mites) have not had time to fully develop and will die, their brother (male) also dies. Only females capable of breeding now exist within the hive.

Our new bee, however, has suffered from the feeding activity of the developing mites and their mother. When extracting the required body fluid from the developing bee, the mite transfers several viruses, and this does mean one very sick bee is the outcome and it is not likely to survive.

Harold Williams

End of the year brings positive news for Wales

AS we head towards Christmas during a very unpredictable period in British politics, I want to take this opportunity to talk about some of the positive things that we will take through to 2019.

This includes removing the Severn tolls, increased funding for Wales from the UK Government and our local economy in the Vale performing well, which all contribute to a sense of optimism for the future.

After this weekend, I am absolutely delighted that we will no longer have to pay tolls at the Severn bridge crossings. Scrapping the tolls was my number one aim when I became Secretary of State for Wales and I've worked hard during my time in the role to ensure that we deliver on this priority. For over half a century, the tolls have restricted and distorted the growth and connections of the Welsh economy. Removing the tolls means that Wales will now be more open for business than ever.

This is really positive news for the Vale and for the rest of south Wales, as residents and businesses will benefit from the resulting economic uplift. Businesses in the Vale such as our many haulage firms like KCS and S&K, will no longer spend hundreds of thousands of pounds over the course of the year. Hard working regular commuters in the Vale will be £1,400 per year better off.

For business, this is money that will allow them to reinvest and grow. For commuters, this is money that will remain in their pockets and can be spent on the things that matter most to them. It will certainly be a welcomed Christmas present for commuters from the Vale.

Abolishing the tolls completely and permanently presents a huge opportunity and paves the way for a new economic powerhouse between south Wales and the west of England.

The new 'Great Western Powerhouse' will give us the opportunity to compete with other regional economic strategies, such as the 'Northern Powerhouse' and the 'Midlands Engine', ensuring that south Wales isn't left behind. It is estimated that scrapping tolls will provide an immediate benefit of over £100m per year for Wales, over a billion pounds of economic benefit to Wales over the next decade.

Removing the tolls adds to the significant economic strides we've seen locally in the Vale in recent years. We've welcomed a major

Welsh Secretary **ALUN CAIRNS** reports to GEM readers

global brand in Aston Martin who have been attracted to set up in St Athan, creating hundreds of jobs.

Just weeks ago, Cowbridge was awarded the Rising Star award at the Great British High Street Awards which was a huge credit to the excellent independent traders there. Barry is continuing to grow and Barry Island in particular has totally transformed from its rundown state some years ago. These are all things that I have been committed to and have worked on delivering.

Of course, despite the many projects I have been working on, we still face some great challenges that need to be overcome. To fully take advantage of the removal of the tolls, we need the M4 relief road. I have worked with the Treasury to make the money available; however, the Welsh Government is continuing to drag its feet rather than getting on with it. We also need the Welsh Government to introduce business rate relief, which I have strongly argued for. Unless Welsh businesses have parity with England, I fear that there is a significant risk that Wales will be left behind. You can find more information about this on my website.

Overall, I see a very exciting time ahead. I am continuing to work hard for the Vale and Wales as a whole, but to reach our full potential we also need the Welsh Government to fund local areas in a way that works for our communities.

Over the year I've enjoyed working with a whole host of different community groups, schools and business from across the Vale. Once again I ran the London Marathon to raise funds for Atal Y Fro, which is a local women's charity, and also for NSPCC. I was delighted to raise over £10,000 and I look forward to running again next year for another great cause.

I would like to finish by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Spice girl Jasmine is off to India and an Olympiad

HOSPITALITY student Jasmine Jones will fly to India to represent Wales in a competition for young chefs: the International Young Chef Olympiad 2019.

Miss Jones, who studies at Cardiff and Vale College, was chosen following an internal competition among the college's hospitality students. Each student was tasked to come up with a meal using a basket of ingredients.

Miss Jones, who is 17 and from Pontyclun, will be joined by CAVC chef lecturer John Crockett who will act as mentor when they fly out in the new year. Miss Jones and Mr Crockett will be sponsored by the Cardiff Hoteliers' Association, which sponsored CAVC apprentice Alex James in 2018 and student Amy Hoskins in 2017 when they took part in the contest.

"I've won this college competition to go to India," Miss Jones said.

"It's an amazing experience and an opportunity to gain knowledge, experience and to meet new friends and make connections in the industry. I'm nervous but it's going to be an amazing opportunity and I'm just going to try my best to get as far as I can in the competition.

"I'd just like to say a big 'thank you' to the Cardiff Hoteliers' Association for its kind sponsorship and for giving me this opportunity. All of this wouldn't be possible without their support so I am determined to do well."

Mr Crockett, CAVC chef lecturer and Miss Jones's mentor said: "We're very proud and privileged to be going to India for the Young Chef Olympiad 2019. I would also like to thank the Cardiff Hoteliers' Association."

Eric Couturier, deputy head of catering, hospitality and food manufacturing, said: "This will be a life changing opportunity for Miss Jones. She will be demonstrating her skills, creativity and flair among some of the best young chefs from all over the world which will be a fantastic experience and everyone at CAVC wishes her the very best of luck."

Cardiff Hoteliers' Association vice chair Karen Matthews said: "This is Cardiff Hoteliers' Association third consecutive year of sponsorship for the Young Chef Olympiad. We are delighted to be able to continue the relationship with the college.

"As an association, we are dedicated to encouraging young talented people into our industry and we feel that this international cookery competition is a fantastic platform for young student chefs to show their skills and put Wales firmly on the culinary map.

"We know it will be an experience of a lifetime for Miss Jones and hope that her experiences will go some way to attract other young people into a career in catering and as in previous years, in the long term help the college to establish the pipeline of talent in chefs that is so desperately needed at present."

CAVC

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG GORCHYMYN (GWAHARDD A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS A LLWYTHO A PHARCIO) (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIAD) (RHIF 6) 2018

1. Ar 10 Rhagfyr 2018 gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Ddeddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 a Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a'r holl bwerau galluogi eraill, greu Gorchymyn a fydd yn gweithredu'r cyfyngiadau parcio a nodir yn yr atodlen isod.
2. Bydd y Gorchymyn yn dod i rym ar 17 Rhagfyr 2018 neu ar y dyddiadau y mae'r arwyddion a'r marciau ffordd yn eu lle ac yn cael eu gwaredu, p'un bynnag sydd hwyraf ac fe'i gelwir yn "Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (Gwahardd a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros a Llwytho a Mannau Parcio) (Gorfodi Sifil) (Diwygiad) (Rhif 6) 2018"
3. Gellir gweld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynlluniau sy'n dangos yr ardaloedd yr effeithir arnynt yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.
4. Os dymunwch gwestiynu dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddarpariaethau ynddo ar y sail nad ydynt yn unol â'r pwerau a ddyfarnwyd gan y Ddeddf uchod neu ar y sail na chydymffurfiwyd ag unrhyw un o ofynion y Ddeddf, neu unrhyw offeryn a wnaed dan y Ddeddf mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn, gallwch, o fewn chwe wythnos o 17 Rhagfyr 2018, wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys at y diben hwn.

Mae'r Gorchmynion Rheoleiddio Traffig canlynol i gael eu diwygio fel a ganlyn: **Gorchymyn Gwahardd a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio (Gorfodi Sifil) 2013**

ATODLEN

Cynnig Dim Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg.
Quarry Road, Gwenfô – Map AC53
Ar ochr y de-ddwyrain o bwynt 15 metr i'r de-orllewin o ffordd fynediad Depo'r Alps am 103 metr tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain.
Mynediad Swyddfa, Depo'r Alps, Gwenfô – Map AC53
Ar ddwy ochr y ffordd o'r gyffordd â Quarry Road tua'r de-ddwyrain am 18.5 metr
Mynediad Depo, Depo'r Alps, Gwenfô – Map AC53
Ar ddwy ochr y ffordd o'r gyffordd â Quarry Road tua'r de-ddwyrain am 15 metr
Middlegate Court Y Bont-faen – Map AA28
Ar ochr y gogledd-orllewin o bwynt 98 metr i'r gogledd-ddwyrain o'r gyffordd â NorthRoad am 5.5 metr i'r gogledd-ddwyrain gan gydgyffwrdd â'r un presennol Ar ochr y de-ddwyrain o bwynt 62 metr i'r gogledd-ddwyrain o'r gyffordd â'r Fynedfa i faes parcio Sgwâr Neuadd y Dref am bellter o 25.5 metr tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain

Dyddiedig 13 Rhagfyr 2018
Cyfarwyddwr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, The Alps, Gwenfô CF5 6AA

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 6) ORDER 2018

15x6

1. On the 10th December 2018 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers made an Order to install the parking restrictions specified in the schedule below.
2. The Order will come into operation on 17th December 2018 or on the dates that the signs and road markings are installed and removed whichever is the later and be known as the "Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No 6) Order 2018"
3. A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.
4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 17th December 2018 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The following Traffic Regulation Orders are to be amended as follows:
Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE

Proposed No Waiting at Any Time.
Quarry Road, Wenvoe – Map AC53
On the south eastern side from a point 15 metres south-west of the Alps Depot Access road in a north easterly direction for a distance of 103 metres.
Office Access, Alps Depot, Wenvoe – Map AC53
On both sides of the road from the junction with Quarry Road in a south easterly direction for a distance of 18.5 metres
Depot Access, Alps Depot, Wenvoe – Map AC53
On both sides of the road from the junction with Quarry Road in a south easterly direction for a distance of 15 metres
Middlegate Court Cowbridge – Map AA28
On the north west side from a point 98 metres north east of the junction with North Road for a distance of 5.5 metres in a north easterly direction contiguous with existing
On the south east side from a point 62 metres north east of the junction with the Entrance to Town Hall Square car park for a distance of 25.5 metres in a north easterly direction

Dated this 13th day of December 2018.
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe CF5 6AA

A big thank you from Roz

ANOTHER great coffee morning took place in Llantwit, even better than last year.

Some £400 will be taken to Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth and I want to thank Eina and George for allowing us to use their wonderfully festive restaurant Illtud's 216, and for providing all the hot refreshments and Continental confectionery.

Thanks go to all our loyal supporters: it's always so good to see you. It was lovely to see new faces too. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously and to David Ellis, who said a few very sentimental words which made the morning a very special time for everyone.

Roz Couzens

Christmas party for Syrian families

VALE AM Jane Hutt welcomed the Syrian families who live in Barry to a Christmas party at the Memo.

This is an annual event with families and volunteers spending time together at Christmas with a visit from the Barry Town Council Mayor, refreshments and Christmas presents for the children.

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First World War book on display

AN exhibition based on an autograph book created by a Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse from World War One is on show at Penarth Library.

The book was created by Beatrice Jones, a Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurse in St John Auxiliary Hospital, Penarth, in 1916.

The VAD system was founded in 1909 and by the summer of 1914, there were more than 2,500 VAD nurses in Britain.

Beatrice worked as a nurse in the hospital from July 1916 to April 1919, with her mother, Annie Jones. Her son, Philip Berry, brought the book to a Vale Libraries 'Digital Heritage Day', on behalf of his mother.

Carys Jones, volunteer with the Vale libraries digitisation project, has researched a number of the soldiers who wrote in Beatrice's book, and their stories are included in the exhibition which includes photographs, signatures, ranks and information of convalescing soldiers who stayed at Penarth hospital.

The autograph book will be on display at Penarth library until Wednesday,January 2.

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Mince pies are icing on the cake for fundraisers

A cheque for £1,500 was presented to Carina Zaccaria from Barnardo's Cymru.

BARRY Barnardo's Helpers' Group recently held their mince pies and carols morning, where they presented the children's charity with a cheque for £1,500.

Guests, including AM Jane Hutt, were joined at All Saints' Church, Barry by a choir from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and pianist Rhiannon Williams.

The event rounded off a busy year for the group which has been supporting Barnardo's Cymru for more than 50 years, during which time they have raised a remarkable £175,000.

This year's highlights included a fashion show, coffee mornings and Christmas card sales.

A strawberry tea was organised by the longest serving member, June Davis (89) who has devoted 57 years to fundraising for the charity.

Chairwoman Judith Holt said: "The mince pies and carols morning is always special. Having the children from Bro Morgannwg join us gives it a lovely atmosphere and it really feels like the start of Christmas.

"We are lucky enough to have some wonderful supporters who help us in so many ways and are very generous."

Festival of winter walks

THE perennially popular Ramblers Festival of Winter Walks is back, taking place this year from Friday, December 21 to Sunday, January 6.

Ramblers' groups in south Glamorgan are offering a great selection of festive walks to give everyone the chance to enjoy winter landscapes in good company, and to meet new friends at a time of year when many people can feel lonely or isolated.

Tompion Platt, Ramblers' director of advocacy and engagement, said: "Winter is a wonderful time to go walking and enjoy the cold crisp air and striking frosty landscapes, and of course it's a great way to burn off the effects of Christmas over-indulgence.

"But we also know that the festive season can be a particularly difficult time for people who are on their own, and a sociable walk with a welcoming group is a great way to get out and about and meet people.

"Our Rambler groups have hundreds of walks organised during our Festival of Winter Walks. All you have to do is turn up and enjoy the company – and perhaps a mince pie and a festive drink too!"

All group walks during the Festival of Winter Walks are free to attend.

SK

Christmas at Barry U3A

BARRY U3A's recent meeting began with a cold luncheon when members contributed different items for the meal, and everyone enjoyed the lovely lunch, followed by dessert.

Much work was undertaken by certain members who spent extra time and effort manning the kitchen, setting tables, serving and washing up and many thanks are offered to them for their dedication to make the meal a memorable one.

Usually, at the meetings a speaker gives a talk on an issue of importance, but at the Christmas meeting, members like to enjoy something more relaxing.

This year, the entertainment was provided by The Vale Ukelastic Band, who joyously announced that they played anything – at a stretch! This was the theme of the jokes that followed throughout the session, much to the amusement of us all.

Many of the band members had found Christmas jumpers, headdresses, earrings and other festive attire for the session and they produced a list of Christmas songs for a singalong. It was a lovely end to the 2018 year and just right for Christmas.

Afterwards, Bob and the other members of the band gave members advice on how to set up their own ukulele band. The reason they are popular is that a ukulele is fairly easy to play, reasonably cheap to buy and anyone can join in.

If you are no longer in full time employment or raising a family, then you are in your third age and new members are very welcome to come along to Barry U3A's meetings. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 7 at 2pm in Bethel Baptist Church Hall at Harbour Road on the roundabout in Park Crescent. Call Christine on 01446 701537 for further information.

The GEM
will be taking a break for Christmas!
We will not be printing an edition for the 27th December.
The first edition for 2019 will be 3rd January.
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Please contact Jan Irving on 01446 774484/07891 690720. jan.irving@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or Wendy Snatchfold on 01446 774484/07957 651504. wendy.snatchfold@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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MP welcomes MYP to role

VALE pupil Lleucu Wiliam from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, has been elected to represent the Vale in the newly-established Welsh Youth Parliament.

Lleucu was one of the youngest in her area and beat 20 other candidates to become the only pupil from the Vale to take up a post at the Welsh Youth Parliament.

The Youth Parliament will consist of 60 pupils from across Wales who will hold regional meetings, have a residential training course and spend two days at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay. Lleucu will hold the post for two years before the elections begin again.

Vale MP Alun Cairns, congratulated Lleucu during a visit to Bro Morgannwg. He said: "It's fantastic to see young people taking an interest in politics and getting involved. Lleucu is clearly a very driven and passionate person, with clear aims on the change she would like to see. I wish her the best of luck in her new role and I am always available for help and guidance.

"It's really positive that young people are keen to learn, engage and voice their opinions."

Lleucu, a year-9 pupil said: "I have an interest in politics and found out about the Welsh Youth Parliament at the National Eisteddfod this year. I liked the idea that young people could have the opportunity to be heard.

"Living on Barry Island, I am aware that the beach is of great benefit to everyone and especially teenagers." Lleucu believed that the pollution from allegedly radioactive mud being dumped in the Channel was becoming a danger to the Welsh coastline. "This became my campaign, together with the planned incinerator in Barry.

"My teachers at YGBM helped me to get the school involved and canvassed for the pupils to take part in the Welsh Youth Parliament, firstly by registering and then voting.

"It's a privilege to be able to represent and voice my peers' opinions. I have put a special thank you to everyone on twitter@welshyouthparl."

Mr Hywel Price, YGBM headteacher, said: "We are delighted with Lleucu's achievement and very proud as she is the only Vale representative on the Welsh Youth Parliament. It is important that young people become involved in politics and express their opinions on local and national matters, and where better to do this than at a Youth Parliament."

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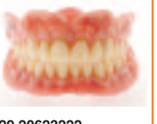

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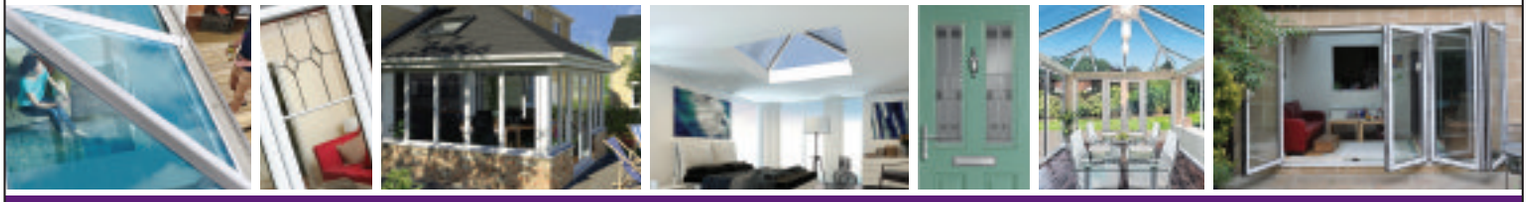

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Week in, week out, without fail, The GEM keeps you up to date with the news that matters to you most – publicising your campaigns, local events, fundraising and other happenings, your good news, sport, and what's on; we are your local news service.

Local papers like The GEM remain committed to being your eyes and ears and your champions.

Newspapers are active in their communities, campaigning on issues that matter to their readers.

The GEM is part of Tindle Newspapers, which as a group puts being 'local' above everything else. Of course there is a focus on what is happening at a national level, but it is what is going on in our local community that has the greatest impact on the lives of ourselves and our families.

With a reach of over 45,000 newspapers weekly, and online, The Glamorgan GEM is the number one paper in the Vale.

And it is that which drives us in our aim to make a difference to the lives of its readers and the business community.

As well as our four print editions (Barry & Penarth, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Bridgend & Porthcawl), The GEM's website (glamorgan-gem.co.uk) gives you the latest news from your area, along with our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Investing in print and digital journalism is important to the The GEM and Tindle Newspapers and we take our responsibility to our readers very seriously.

Your local news team knows that you rely on them to keep you abreast of what is happening locally, and nationally, where it affects you, and that you need someone to fight your corner.

With the growth of fake news, it has never been more important to have trust in what you are reading, and that is where local newspapers like The GEM are so important.

The GEM distributes over 45,000 newspapers a week, along with a strong presence online and on social media – what drives us is our passion to keep you informed about the local issues and events which affect you most, and we couldn't do it without your help and support.

You, our readers and advertisers, help us to continue to provide a first-class local news service – let's work together to make sure that The Glamorgan GEM is at the centre of our communities.

Two men are jailed after Operation Avalanche

TWO men who dealt class A drugs have been jailed after they were caught as part of Operation Avalanche.

Leyton Ewings, aged 39, of Barry, and Thomas Hodges, aged 31, of Barry, were sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court on Friday, December 7.

Ewings was jailed for three years and Hodges was sentenced to 16 months in prison.

Ewings pleaded guilty to eight counts of supplying a controlled drug of class A – heroin and one count of supplying a controlled drug of class A – crack cocaine.

Hodges pleaded guilty to supplying a controlled drug of class A drug – crack cocaine.

The pair were caught by officers as part of Operation Red Dragon which forms part of the force-wide Operation Avalanche to tackle criminality in south Wales. Three days of action involving 220 officers took place in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend last month.

ABOVE LEFT: Leyton Ewings, and ABOVE RIGHT: Thomas Hodges.

The court heard, Ewings supplied an undercover officer with £10 wraps of heroin on eight different occasions from August to September of this year. He also supplied the officer with a cling film wrap of crack cocaine.

On August 22, Hodges supplied an undercover officer with crack cocaine on one occasion.

Detective Inspector Dean Taylor said: "Operation Avalanche is a large-scale operation to tackle the supply of class A drugs in Bridgend and the Vale.

"Ultimately, our aim is to make south Wales a hostile environment for organised crime groups and we hope today's sentencing sends the message to those who cause misery in our communities by dealing drugs that we will take action against them.

"We will not tolerate dealers operating within our area – and we are committed to disrupting and dismantling these organisations. So the message is simple – stay away!"

If anyone has information regarding drug supply in Bridgend or the Vale of Glamorgan area, contact Police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

FUW Academy set for trip to Lamma Show

THE South Wales FUW Academy, comprising the Union's Gwent, Glamorgan and Brecon and Radnor branches, is organising a coach trip to the UK's leading Farm Machinery Equipment and Services Show at the NEC in Birmingham.

The trip takes place on Tuesday, January 8 and those attending the event will be leaving from Monmouthshire Livestock Centre at 8am and returning from Birmingham at 5.30pm.

FUW Gwent CEO Glyn Davies said: "We are really excited about this event. It is a unique opportunity to see the very latest in agricultural machinery, equipment and services with more than 800 exhibitors taking part and entry is free. The cost to members will be £10 for the coach. I would advise you to book your seat as soon as possible as it's looking to be a popular event."

Contact the county office on 01873 853280/Chris Lewis on 07792 232758 to book your place.

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Time to support our farmers and buy local for Christmas 2018

Rachel Saundersright) , CEO of the Glamorgan branch of the Farmers Union of Wales, writes for The GEM with a timely reminder about those who help put the foods on our plates on Christmas – and each – day.

CHRISTMAS is well and truly on: many of us will have been up in the attic to get those boxes of Christmas decorations down, villages and towns up and down Wales are spruced up and glowing in festive lights.

You will probably have more than the Christmas dinner on your mind, with present shopping bringing with it a possible headache.

What to get and where from? The answer is right on our doorstep.

Think about your rural businesses and see if you can buy local, either for the upcoming feast or even gifts for family and friends. Over recent years we have seen a revolution in artisan food shops and boutiques – handmade gifts, sourced locally and within the reach of every budget.

There are plenty of small shops around that offer Welsh craft and locally designed gifts, and the choice for local food gifts is wide. It really is worth having a look.

These are small decisions we can make that will have a big impact on our rural economy and our community.

As far as food is concerned for this time of year – speak to your local butcher and see what your local farm shop has to offer; I promise you will find many of the ingredients you need for your Christmas dinner right on your doorstep.

We produce some of the finest foods here in Wales, so it seems only right to make sure it is on your dinner table. Welsh lamb and beef could even make a nice change or addition to the traditional turkey.

Add some Welsh grown veg to the equation and you're onto a winner. In all this it is worth remembering that a pound spent locally will go much further than a pound spent in a chain store, and it keeps our rural economies going.

By supporting our local businesses we don't help a CEO buy his or her third holiday home, but we help a local mum and dad put food on the table, a family pay their mortgage, a little girl get those dance lessons and a little boy get his favourite team shirt.

Paul honours father's memory at Over-50s Cricket World Cup

WALES bowed out of the Over-50s World Cup after a defeat in the plate semi-final against South Africa.

The tournament was staged in Sydney, Australia in late November/early December and the squad contained Paul Murphy (54) who used to play for Barry Athletic Cricket Club and now plays for Usk. Paul had sponsored the Wales v England clash in memory of his late father John, who won the Welsh Cup with Barry Athletic Cricket Club in 1985. The game was called off due to bad weather and declared a draw with the points shared.

Eight teams took part in what was the first Over-50s World Cup – Wales, England, Australia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Canada, New Zealand and Pakistan. Wales had finished the group stage in sixth position after a good win against Canada. They had also kicked off their tournament with a memorable win against South Africa.

Their final group record was played 7, won 2, lost 4 and drawn 1. They finished above South Africa and Canada. It was a respectable result bearing in mind that most of the other countries have a larger player pool to draw from and that over-50s cricket is very well established in other countries such as Australia, who were the eventual winners.

Pictured above are members of the Welsh squad relaxing at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

TC

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Music in the Vale event was 'best ever' says organising committee

ORGANISERS of the 'Music in the Vale' competition are calling this year's event the "best ever".

Spokeswoman Sue Taylor said: "Music in the Vale has been helping the young talent of Wales for 27 years, and this year we collaborated with Cowbridge Male Voice Choir and also Cowbridge Music Festival.

"Recently at Stanwell School, Penarth there were over 80 entries including three choirs – Cantabile, Cor Heol y March and Fusion. There were eight instrumental ensembles and three vocal ensembles.

"I would like to thank our four adjudicators, Angela Livingstone, Sharon Richards, Simon Phillippo and Peter Esswood, who gave interesting and helpful advice after each section was judged and prizes awarded.

"Many thanks go to our accompanists, namely Sally Tarlton, Rhiannon Pritchard and Emma Arscott. Natasha Evans, head of music at Corpus Christi accompanied the many entrants from her school."

A gala concert for the winners will be held on January 27, 2019, at Stanwell School, Penarth starting at 2pm

Results:

Ensemble – the winner was the Hiraeth String Quartet, with Concordia runner-up.

Instrumental intermediate group 1 – the winner was Oliver Tait (piano).

Instrumental intermediate group 2 – the winner was Heledd Wynn Newton (harp).

Instrumental intermediate group 3 – the winner was Isobel Adams (viola).

Instrumental intermediate overall winner – Heledd Wynn Newton (harp).

Instrumental junior – the winner was Jacob Adams (French horn).

Instrumental senior – the winner was Tabitha Selley (cello).

Instrumental Young senior – the winner was Tomos Boyles (piano).

Choir – the winner was Cor Heol y March.

Vocal ensemble – the winner was Sophie, Fran and Aaliyah (trio).

Vocal young intermediate – Rhianna Hogg.

Vocal junior – the winner was Nia Menna Compton.

Vocal young senior – the winner was Ellie Gent.

ABOVE:
Ellie Gent was the winner of the young vocal senior.

ABOVE:
Vocal ensemble performers.

ABOVE:
Winners in the intermediate instrumental category.

ABOVE:
Winners in the junior instrumental category.

Out & About with The GEM

Robert Redford's big-screen farewell, The Old Man & The Gun, is a wonderful piece of work...

THERE'S nothing like a retirement to wet the eyes, and even in Hollywood, where retirements come and go and are quickly rescinded, the news that Robert Redford was signing off with one last film was met with plaudits to a career that has been nothing short of magnificent, *writes GARETH JAMIESON.*

His last film, The Old Man and the Gun, is based on the true story of Forrest Tucker, who Redford portrays here, and his audacious escape from San Quentin Prison at the age of 70 to commit peaceful heists that caught the attention of the public – and also the detective chasing him, Casey Affleck's John Hunt. When Tucker falls for Jewel (Sissy Spacek), will he turn over a new leaf?

If this truly is the last hurrah of Robert Redford on screen, then he has gone out on a pitch-perfect note, for The Old Man and The Gun is a wonderfully told story, with sublimely low-key performances from its cast and a gentle wooziness that is difficult to resist.

We first meet Forrest Tucker in the middle of one of his bank robberies, a heist so effortless and breezy that you wonder why more people don't try it. This opening scene (and the meet-cute with Sissy Spacek's Jewel following it) instantly tell us the sort of man he is, an adventurer in a slightly iffy line of work, a man who wants to live, no matter the cost to himself or those around him.

With his irrepressibly twinkly blue eyes and no end of charm, Tucker is a gentleman thief, and the perfect character for Redford to slip into. This is Redford channelling his big-screen persona for all that it's worth, and it turns out that's worth a huge amount.

His performance feels so effortless, so naturally charismatic, that it almost feels like he's not acting at all, but as real life intrudes upon his other life you start to see some of Redford's chops in action, the relationship and the desire to spend his time with Jewel (wonderfully portrayed by Sissy Spacek) twisting his priorities.

As the detective tracking him down, Casey Affleck is wonderful. Turning 40, on the cusp of (if not dipping into) midlife crisis, his desire to track down Tucker (which includes a small, but pivotal, scene about the cost of Tucker's behaviour on those he's left behind) reinvigorates him and fires him up.

Director David Lowery's filmography is one that spans many styles and genres, but here he lenses the film with a 1970s feel, long zoom-outs, sun-dappled vistas, that lends a warming visual note to the film. Given that this is a film about a bank robber, there's nary a hint of malevolence in the film; you could point to this being a misstep, but Lowery's intent is to focus on Tucker's charm and character more than his line of work.

There is plenty of joy to be drawn from the relationship between Tucker and Jewel. Built on half-truths and assumptions (she never truly believing he is what he alludes to be), it's a wonderfully sketched pairing but one where reality is always likely to intrude. When it does, the fallout is delivered subtly and without overt dramatics.

With a running time of 93 minutes, it's a film that doesn't waste a moment and it's all the better for it. It could quite easily expand its narrative, but Lowery's focus on the things that matter (having written the script) makes it limber and well-constructed.

In many ways, it's fitting that Redford's last acting role sees him perform the character of a charming rogue, all dazzling smile and charisma with a seemingly un-ending lust for life. After all, Redford's career has been built on these foundations. As the film seamlessly weaves in pictures or footage of performances past, it makes you appreciate the unerring skill and talent of Redford all the more. If this truly is goodbye, the The Old Man and The Gun is a superb send-off.

VERDICT: A film where much of its weight comes from Robert Redford's impending retirement, The Old Man and The Gun moves at a breezy pace, charming and wonderfully delivered. Packing plenty of action into its running time, David Lowery's film is a fitting farewell to Redford, who delivers, along with Casey Affleck and Sissy Spacek, a superb turn, in what is a wholly satisfying watch.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Gran Torino (2008), Going In Style (2017).

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Your guide to what's on and where in your area

COUNCILLORS' Surgery

THE Labour Councillors for Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland and Court Wards, will be holding their regular, monthly advice surgery on Saturday, December 15 in the Small Community Room, Barry Library, King Square from 10am-11am.

No appointment necessary.

CAKE sale

FRIENDS of Penarth Library will be holding a Christmas cake sale and drop in craft session with local designer Mari Worth, at the library in Stanwell Road on Saturday, December 15 between 10am and 1pm.

CAROL Concert

CAROL concert Mid Glamorgan Soar Chapel Rhiwceiliog Mixed Choir present a carol concert on Thursday, December 13 at 7pm with collection; all welcome.

MPS Surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery on Friday, December 14 from 10am to 11am at Age Connects, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

CAROLS in heart of Dinas

THIS year's carols around the Christmas Tree will be on Friday, December 14 on the Twyn in the heart in old Dinas Powys.

The Dinas Powys Community Council Christmas event is led again by Mark Thompson. The music will be provided by the Ecumenical 7.

Cllr Chris Franks said: "Come and enjoy traditional carols with your family, friends and neighbours. This will be a real community event."

PENARTH History Society

ALAN Thorne will give a talk on 'Notable Ladies of Penarth' at All Saints' Church Lesser Hall, Penarth, on Thursday, December 13 at 7.30pm.

Admission is £2 for non members; all welcome.

LLYNFI Woodland Group

THE first Annual General Meeting of Llynfi Woodland Group takes place on Wednesday, January 16 from 6.30pm to 8pm at Y Llynfi Library, Maesteg CF34 9EB with a talk on 'Biodiversity on coal spoil sites'.

The AGM is open to all interested in supporting the work of this newly-established community group. Members with voting rights may be required to vote on issues, such as appointments to the board of trustees.

Email nominations for trustees by December 31 to: llynfiwoodlandgroup@gmail.com.

COUNCILLORS' surgery

LLANTWIT First Independent Councillors will hold a surgery on Saturday, December 15 at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major from 9.30am until 11.30am.

Residents who have any issue to raise are welcome to attend.

Library fundraiser hits £600

RHOOSE Community Library held their 'Get Your Jingle On!' Christmas fundraising event on Saturday at Celtic Way Community Hall to raise funds to keep the library open, and managed to raise over £600.

The event, which was supported by Vale MP Alun Cairns, had lots on offer including a Christmas wreath-making demonstration by local florist Janet Green followed by carol singing with the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band. Attendees were greeted with mulled wine and baked Christmas treats.

Mr Cairns said: "It was a pleasure to support Rhoose Community Library at their excellent Christmas fundraiser. Everyone involved with organising, including Bronwen, Sheila and Christine, put a lot of effort into making events like this a success and the work they do is appreciated by all. I'm delighted to see that it was a success and everyone enjoyed the day."

Just where will Santa – and his sleigh – visit next?

DESPITE some rain, which caused two of the scheduled Cowbridge Rotary Santa Sleigh collections to be postponed over past week, Santa, Rudolph and his elves are back on schedule and making progress through the Vale.

With the Christmas countdown well under way and only a few days for Santa to complete his remaining visits, the club is pulling out all the stops to help make sure those planned Christmas visits can be completed.

Santa will visit:

on Thursday, December 13 between 5pm and 7.30pm, Llangan Village Hall, Fferm Goch and Timbers Green; on Friday, December 14 between 5pm and 7.30pm; 5.30pm Llysworney, around the Christmas tree/village pond; on Saturday, December 15 between 8.45am and 5.15pm in Santa's Grotto outside Café Nero, Birds Lane, Cowbridge.

In the event of bad weather, Santa and Rudolph will make every effort to make up the missed routes that he is unable to complete. Any alterations to the schedule will be posted on our Twitter/Facebook sites and on the club website at www.cowbridgerotary.club.

Don't forget to send in your selfies to us at Cowbridge.Rotary@yahoo.co.uk.

Club information leaflets are available from Reception at the Bear Hotel; visit www.cowbridgerotary.club or contact secretary Michael Macphail on 01446 774704.

Police faces budget deficit for next year

SOUTH Wales Police is facing an initial £16 million budget gap for next year.

The figure, which does not take into account any precept increase yet, was revealed to members of the South Wales Police and Crime Panel at their meeting on Tuesday, December 11.

Umar Hussain, the chief finance officer for the force, told members of the panel meeting in Merthyr Tydfil that the the gap is the equivalent to the cost of 320 officers, 400 PCSOs and 240 police staff members.

The force has already made more than £6 million savings but the near £23 million spend leaves an initial shortfall of £16.4 million for 2019/20.

If there is a one per cent precept rise next year, the force expects that will generate £1.15 million.

The initial budget gap (excluding any precept rise) for 2019/20 was £11.5 million but this has risen because of various pressures such as the apprenticeship levy, increased employer contributions to the pension scheme, unfunded pay awards, inadequate infrastructure funding and the increased dependency on technology to manage rising demand.

Mr Hussain said the force is looking at various areas where it can make savings including managing its estate with South Wales Police having the most number of stations outside of London.

He said: "We are very progressive and making the best we can out of our resources. The home office have accepted the case for additional funding for police."

But he said the burden of that funding is being passed on to local tax payers.

"We are on that edge now. We have managed austerity far better than we would have done without investment. That is all at risk," said Mr Hussain.

Matt Jukes, the chief constable of South Wales Police, told panel members that the recent pay increases for staff had not been funded and that the force has had to absorb this.

He said a two-per-cent rise would cost the force £6 million if the funding didn't follow from the UK Government.

Mr Hussain also said that the employers' contribution to pensions had risen from 24 per cent to 34 per cent.

Alun Michael said it is "outrageous" that the force is being asked to find an extra £4 million this year and £10 million next year to find officer pensions and plug the gap left by the Treasury.

He said there was less coming through officer contributions because there were fewer officers and that they were increasing employer contributions massively.

He said: "They (the Treasury) have a moral obligation to fund it. We should not be filling the gap."

Does South Wales Police provide value for money?

Mr Hussain said that in the past seven years, the force had spent 57p per head of population every day, which is two pence more than similar forces in other parts of the UK.

He added that the rate of crime in that time had been 79 crimes per 1000 people but that the figure for similar forces elsewhere is 99 per 1000 people so there is "...a 20-per-cent less chance of being the victim of crime for a 2p difference in terms of cost".

He said this is a "huge difference" and that in that period the force had essentially delivered the equivalent of £500 million "less harm" in terms of the social and economic costs of crime compared to other similar forces.

Panel member Melvin Jehu, addressing the commissioner and chief constable said: "Your are providing value for money. You have been good guardians of the public purse."

The commissioner will present his next police and crime plan to the panel in the new year.

Matt Discombe
Local democracy reporter

Gymnasts bend over backwards to help homeless

THIS year, YMCA Barry gymnasts and pupils of Llandough primary school have teamed up to collect and gather donations of toiletries and gifts for the homeless across Cardiff and the Vale.

The initiative was created after a call from the YMCA requested donations for service users.

A YMCA spokesperson said: "Some homeless people are going without the most basic of necessities, so just by having a toothbrush, a bit of toothpaste or some shower gel means they can refresh themselves and clean, which can make a big difference to their mental health and wellbeing."

The project saw over 50 shoeboxes filled with various toiletries and gloves, scarfs, hats and Christmas gifts from pupils at Llandough primary school.

Head teacher Mark Ellis has said: "It is such a wonderful project to be involved with, not only are we helping the homeless in our community but we are challenging our pupils to think about what it means to be homeless and how we can help in the future."

Gymnasts and parents from YMCA Barry are making a difference this year by donating toiletries and gifts for men and women.

Chloe Gabb said "Doing this really made me think about how tough it must be everyday to be homeless, but especially on Christmas Day to have no-one thinking about you is really sad.

"So I hope whoever receives my toiletries box will at least know that I will be thinking of them at Christmas this year."

YMCA Cardiff support workers will be distributing the gift boxes over the festive period.

YMCA spokesperson

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Derek Acorah The Eternal Life Tour
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Coping with Bereavement

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ROBERT D Johnson Funeral Directors aims to offer local families, who require funeral services and bereavement care, the highest level of personal attention.

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Robert is delighted that Lisa is helping him establish a 'family firm', providing Barrians with a personal and professional service.

With his experience and being focused on his local community, Robert feels he can deliver a truly personal service to ensure all funerals are tailored to a bereaved family's requirements and, just as importantly, to their budget.

The company can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and Robert added: "We will ensure that we are available at all times to meet a family's needs."

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See more from our feature on pages 19, 2 and 21. Also visit our website at glamorgan-gem.co.uk for the latest news from your area.

Passmores will offer a sympathetic and efficient service to the bereaved

WHEN a person dies, someone, usually a family member, has the responsibility of dealing with that person's estate.

This may include establishing what assets and liabilities that person had and working out whether a 'Grant of Probate' will be needed to administer the estate.

This is a daunting task under normal circumstances, but for many people it may feel a great deal more burdensome, mixed with feelings of grief and distress.

Usually the first thing to do is to establish whether there is a will in existence and to make a note of the fact that the estate is to be distributed in accordance with that will.

A will may be held with the solicitor that drew it up or in a safe custody box with a bank.

A personal representative is usually appointed in the will to deal with the deceased person's estate, also known as an executor.

A Grant of Probate is issued by the Probate Registry, upon the submission of certain information based on the person's estate.

It gives the personal representative authority to deal with the deceased person's estate and allows them to access money held in banks, building societies or other investments.

It also authorises the personal representative to sell the deceased person's home.

Once all funds have been collected in and all commitments have been paid, the personal representative may distribute the estate to the beneficiaries, as set out in the will – or if no will, then in accordance with the rules of intestacy, which are a set of rules setting out who is to benefit.

The personal representative may also have to deal with the payment of inheritance tax, if the estate exceeds the current threshold.

Other responsibilities may include defending a claim against the estate, should this arise.

Passmores offers a sympathetic and efficient service when dealing with probate and estate administration.

If you live or work in Barry, Cardiff or the Vale of Glamorgan and would like further information, ask to speak to our specialist Carli Evans on 01446 721000 or ce@passmores.com today.

The Vale Funeral Service: 'A tradition of care'

POPULAR, established funeral directors in the heart of the community, Lyndsay Ellis and his wife Nicola exclusively care for loved ones and bereaved families at The Vale Funeral Service, based at 181 Court Road, Cadoxton.

They are renowned for their personal and professional attention to detail, and for giving loved ones and their families a first class and impeccable service.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19...

Town Council introduce coffee and chat

IN 2019, Barry Town Council are hoping to introduce quarterly 'Coffee and a Chat' days in the Cemetery Chapel.

The aim of these events will be to offer members of the public to come and talk to other people who are grieving in an informal environment and hopefully offer solace.

It will also give members of the public the opportunity to meet the cemetery team and other professionals and talk about cemetery related issues and learn about projects that we have going on in the cemetery.

This year, we have created an ashes Scatter Garden and this will be launched on December 19.

We are also preparing an area within the cemetery for the introduction of bees into the cemetery, and last month, we created a Facebook and Twitter page that we invite you to join.

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Barry Town Council

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Launch date
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Coping with Bereavement

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

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An expert's advice could help to avoid any dispute

BRENDAN Sweeney, of David Prosser & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population does not have a Will.

A Will takes effect on your death, and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area, which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential.

A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax

It is important that people are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place Powers of Attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if your lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

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The Vale Funeral Service 'will be there for you every step of the way'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Lyndsay and Nicki are privileged to accommodate the well known former family name of W Spickett & Son, the oldest family Funeral Directors in Barry established in 1837, together with their parent company Pidgeons Of Cardiff.

Lyndsay said: "We continue with our family ethos to serve our families to the highest of standards we are known for.

"From the moment you contact us, we will be there for you and will stay with you every step of the way during your difficult time.

"We aim to give care and compassion in dealing with the bereaved family requirements and appreciate that each funeral takes on a different role. No two funerals are the same, as each loved one deserves a personal tribute.

"It is a rare privilege to be a funeral director, to stand in a sensitive position at a crucial time in the midst of your family, knowing that the high standards of our service and reputation will help you through the most difficult time in your lives.

"We cannot make the pain from losing a loved one go away, but through our efforts, our hope is to make the journey of grief less lonely and perhaps a little easier."

"I can assure clients that we are always here to provide a 24-hour service, seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year, including bank Holidays and Christmas Day. There is always a member of our staff available to talk to.

"We are very pleased to be assisted by funeral director's assistant Ben Hartery, who is a valued and dedicated member of the Vale Funeral team and continues the high standards for which we are known. You can contact us on 01446 407962."

Companionship in difficult times with April Care

THE death of a loved one is one of life's most difficult experiences. The bereaved struggle with many intense and painful emotions, including depression, anger, guilt, and profound sadness.

Often, feeling isolated and alone in their grief, but having someone to lean on can help them through the grieving process.

We at April Care are able to offer specialist support from staff who have received training in bereavement

Our staff know how to listen and offer companionship. Often at times, well-meaning people avoid talking about death or change the subject when the deceased person is mentioned. But our staff understand that the bereaved need to feel that their loss is acknowledged, it's not too terrible to talk about, and their loved one won't be forgotten. By listening compassionately, staff offer comfort and reassurance without minimizing the loss.

We are consistent in offering assistance, reassuring the grieving person that we will be there for them as long as it takes.

We can be here to help, even with the smallest of things such as shopping for groceries or run errands, take care of housework, such as cleaning or laundry duties, arrange and attend support group meetings with you, or even accompany you on walks.

We are able to offer extra support on special days too. Certain times and days of the year may be particularly hard, whether you are grieving for a friend or family member. Holidays, family milestones, birthdays, and anniversaries often reawaken grief. We are sensitive on these occasions also, and we can be there for you.

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Pontyclun Funeral Services

AS part of our service as a funeral director, we are available to visit you in your home 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Our home visits are designed to make any funeral arrangements with you and your family for the funeral of your loved one, as well as providing the best support and advice available, including answering any questions that you may have.

Pontyclun Funeral Services is a small, but reputable, funeral director serving the residents of Pontyclun and the surrounding areas of the south Wales valleys.

We have always strived to meet the needs of the families we serve, which recently included a full renovation of our funeral home on Clun Avenue in Pontyclun, which now includes modern facilities along with a spacious chapel of rest and visitation area. We can help you through the process of making arrangements for a funeral that is personal to the requirements and needs of your family.

Park Funerals are here to help all year round

PARK Funerals is a family owned, fully-independent funeral director based in Barry and also in Penarth.

At this time of year, no one wants to contemplate the loss of a family member, but unfortunately a bereavement can happen at any time - sometimes expected, though often a complete, and awful, surprise.

We are able to offer financing for funerals (subject to status), to assist when funds for a funeral are not readily available.

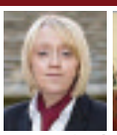
Coping with the stress of a bereavement and then being faced with the cost of a funeral, can often put a family under financial pressure. This option can greatly help in deferring that expense.

Our dedicated team of professional staff are on hand to help you with your funeral needs, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

We are here to help and assist you should the need arise. If you are the sort of person who likes to plan ahead and put their affairs in order, we are able to offer affordable funeral plans, which will help relieve the burden on the family after someone passes away.

We truly hope that you will not need us over the festive period and that you and your families have an enjoyable seasonal break.

Park Funeral Directors



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Coping with Bereavement

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Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services hold second annual Christmas Service

MEL & RON Watkins Funeral Services, Pencoed held their second annual Christmas Remembrance Service on December 6 at Salem Chapel, Pencoed.

The service aims to remind families who have lost loved ones about the warmth of shared Christmases past, of the brighter Christmases to come and the importance of fellowship and support; and an occasion for people to come together and remember loved ones at this special time of year. The service included the opportunity to place a memorial star on the Christmas tree or to light a candle in memory of our loved ones no longer with us.

With superb performances from Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, soloist Natasha John and string quartet Tempo Primo, the evening really was a special occasion.

The service was led by Rev Richard Roberts with readings from Cllr Alex Williams and Beryl Vaughan. There was also a free will offer for Velindre Cancer Centre fundraising, and we're delighted to report that £1,000 was raised on the evening.

Ron, Alan, Amy, Aled and family wish to thank everyone who supported the evening and we look forward to welcoming you to next year's service.

Special thanks to Reverend Richard Roberts, Rhiannon Williams, the Friends of Salem and Pencoed Town Council.

Cardiff Care Home has a festive ukulele treat!

RESIDENTS at a Cardiff Care home were treated to an afternoon of uplifting music and song when a local ukulele band visited them for a special performance before Christmas.

Staff at the private care home Tŷ Llandaff in Pontcanna organised the concert by Cardiff's Ukulele Wolves.

The band gave the Tŷ Llandaff residents a truly festive show, dressed in Christmas jumpers and Santa hats, performing all the popular Christmas hits.

Residents relished the music while enjoying mince pies and other festive treats to help get everyone in the mood for Christmas.

Tŷ Llandaff activities co-ordinator Melanie Geoghegan said: "Musical events are always a big success with our residents and the Ukulele Wolves were really entertaining performers; everyone enjoyed the show immensely.

"We know music has been scientifically proven to lower blood pressure and improve mood, and we always find that musical events really lift the spirits of our residents. It was easy to see how much everyone enjoyed the performance and we can't wait to have them back."

The Bridgend Sports mini and junior rugby round-up

The under-12s who had a hard fought encounter with Briton Ferry.

IT was a tense affair at Newbridge Fields where the Bridgend Sports under-12s outscored Briton Ferry 21-12.

In a hard-fought game, the Sports were not at their best as they conceded penalties which could have cost them. Nerves played a part as they dominated possession and territory first half but could not turn this into points.

It took some time before they settled and eventually, they scored three tries to their opponents two to secure their place in the draw for the next round in January.

Gruff Roberts scored one try and Rhys Anthony went one better with two. Jack Sperduty converted all three.

Treharris Under Thirteens 17 V Bridgend Sports Under Thirteens 28

The under-13s travelled with numbers in their squad to play a fixture against Treharris.

It was a slow start for the Sports again in an away fixture , early morning travel and uncertainty caused by the troublesome weather no doubt played a part.

If you put that together with some disruption caused by the opposition only having 12 experienced players, inevitable the end-product was not what the Sports would have wanted.

For those first 10 minutes, Treharris raced into a 12-0 lead. The Sports paid the price for being slow to respond but the Sports then set loose their big guns. Ben King was first to score, Cian John adding the conversion.

King then added another, Ieuan Pilliner with the conversion, and Callum Lewis scored the final try of the half. A superb touchline conversion by Ieuan Pilliner ensured the Sports went into half time 12-21 in front.

The second half was a bit of a dour affair, Treharris changing tactics and scored one try but once again the Sports showed great character and ground out the game.

Megan Lewis then drove for the line from a lineout and crashed over for a well-deserved and popular score, and another touchline conversion sealed the game for the Sports.

The game was a good test ahead of their Ospreys cup fixture against Tonna at home this Sunday.

Squad: Abi Davies Jones; Ben King; Callum Jones; Callum Lewis; Chloe Gant; Cian John; Connor Jones; Dylan Morgan; Efan Dyer; Iestyn John; Ieuan Pilliner; Jack Morgan; Mason Balmer; Megan Lewis; Molly Prance; Theo Clarke; Thomas Chick, Tyler Burton and Will Ellis.

SP

Titans make history and put up a fight!

Katy Sage makes a tackle for the Tondu Titans.

TONDU Titans played their first-ever game on Sunday against Blaina.

There was a strong start made by the Titans but Blaina scored the first try.

The Titans were in the game, but then conceded a second try, and though there were a few injuries, the girls kept fighting with no replacements and only 14 players at one stage.

Then the Titans earned their first try, as Rhianne pushed through and scored.

Blaina responded with one of their own, but Tondu grabbed another as Carys' pass to Kayleigh saw her score in a brilliant team effort.

The game ended 15-10 in what was a hard-fought encounter for both teams.

Forward of the match went to Rhianne Taylor, while back of the match was awarded to Carys Thomas.

CS

On and Off The Turf – Brian Lee

MIDNIGHT Queen, trained by Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, was a nine lengths winner of the closing Harpley Handicap Hurdle at Fakenham on Tuesday.

Partnered by stable jockey Alan Johns, eight-year-old Midnight Queen won by nine lengths from the top-weighted General Bun, ridden by Fergus Gregory, and was returned at odds of 9-2.

The opening handicap hurdle went to 14-1 chance Bisoubisou, trained by Mrs S Humphrey and ridden by Welsh jockey Sean Bowen.

EVAN'S 50-1 WINNER

Evan Williams' four-year-old Secret Reprieve was a 50-1 winner of the Native River Supports The IJF Novices' Hurdle at rainsoaked Chepstow Racecourse last Saturday (December 8).

Partnered by stable jockey Adam Wedge, Secret Reprieve won by one-and-a-quarter lengths from the favourite Smiths Cross and those who backed this lightly raced horse – which had finished fifth of six in a bumper (Flat race) last month – those on the tote were rewarded with odds of almost 92-1!

The previous race the Smart Money's On Coral Conditional Jockeys' Novices Hurdle, was won by Aberthin's Tim Vaughan's five-year-old Trixster who under Charlie Price just got home by a head from the Nigel Twiston-Davies-trained Ballyart.

Trixster went off the 5-2 favourite in a field of nine runners.

CONNOR'S SEDGEFIELD WIN

At Sedgefield 24 hours earlier, Bridgend's Connor Brace put his pony racing experience to good use when winning the closing Mansionbet Standard Open National Hunt Flat Race for his guvnor Fergal O'Brien on the five-year-old Champagne Well, which had three parts of a length to spare over Big Bad Bear.

Champagne Well, the only five-year-old in the race – the five others were all four-year-olds – was a 6-4 chance.

Earlier Evan Williams had taken the Indian Marquee On Boxing Day Offer Mares' Novices' Handicap Chase with the even money favourite Inch Lala, who, under Adam Wedge, won by 11 lengths from the botton-weighted GoGo Baloo.

DAVID'S CORNISH DOUBLE

David Prichard, who as a youngster lived in the Vale, landed a double at the Cornwall Hunt Club Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Wadebridge last Sunday.

David took both divisions of the open maiden race. Riding Dragon De La Tour, a 7-2 chance, in division one he scored by five lengths from Captain Cuckoo and in division two when partnering the 12-1 outsider Shelcomeonfordrun, he won by the same distance.

Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft took the intermediate race on the Tommy Faulkner-trained Kensington Castle.

Only four runners faced the starter and Kensington Castle, the 5-4 favourite, won by half-a-length from In Arrears.

EVAN'S LINGFIELD WINNER

At Lingfield on Monday, Llancarfan's Evan Williams' eight-year-old The Gipper was a seven lengths winner of the Weatherbys Racing Diaries Handicap Hurdle.

A 4-1 chance, The Gipper was partnered by dual winning Grand National jockey Leighton Aspell.

Brian Lee

Nice afternoon for a mince pie at Brynhill!

ON Saturday, December 8, Chris and Jane Phillips, the organisers of the mixed foursomes summer competition hosted a Christmas get-together at Brynhill GC for the members.

It was a lovely afternoon of mince pies, nibbles and drinks. Fortunately for all, Chris and Jane have agreed to organise next year's fixtures and hopefully the weather.

LT

Early present for the under-15s

AFTER two days of torrential rain, Llantwit Major RFC under-15s were surprised but pleased to see that their fixture away against Canton RFC was going ahead on a dry and bright Sunday morning.

The team started well and were able to put together strong phases, which resulted in opening the score line for the Llantwit side.

A successful conversion taken by Kyle made the score 7-0.

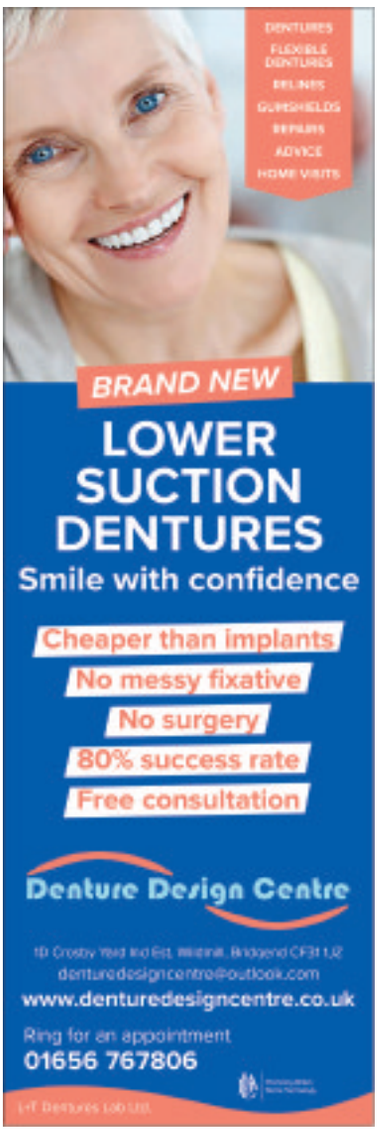
Canton quickly responded with their fast-paced winger and bought the score back to 7-5 to the visiting team.

A well-balanced game saw two teams work hard to try and break through strong defences. The Llantwit team seemed to have the upper hand for most of the match, even though at one point Canton pulled ahead by a narrow margin. Excellent forward play and the backs passing the ball quickly through hands allowed further tries from Will (2), Lewis I, Owen and Ioan.

Further conversions took the final score to 31-22 to the visiting Llantwit side and a well-earned early Christmas gift for the coaches.

Squad: Josh, Kyle, Lewis I, Lewis M, Jaydon, Aaron, Nathan, Owen, Ioan, Sam, Dylan, Dan F, Dan H, Evan, Tyler, Jac, Will, Ellis.

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest? Then get in touch with us - email **sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**



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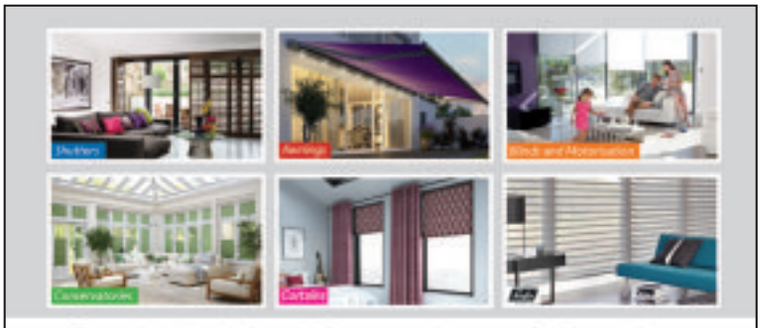

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IRENE FLORENCE GALEY (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Morel Court Raisdale Road Penarth Vale of Glamorgan CF64 5BN who died on 13/08/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 15/02/2019, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Family Notices

BYRNE
Michael

Peacefully on 1st December at Llandough Hospital, Michael, aged 98 years. Loving husband of the late Mary, dear father of Michael, Robert and the late Kevin. Loved grandfather, great grandfather and great great grandfather.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until being received into St Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Wednesday, 12th December at 4pm. Requiem Mass to take place on Thursday, 13th December at 10.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

EVANS
Ronald

Suddenly on 29th November 2018, aged 86 years. Dearly beloved husband to Anne, loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Ron will be truly missed by all his family, friends and all at The West End Club.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in our Chapel of Rest on Friday, 21st December at 2pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service in memory of Ron to the Noah's Ark Appeal.

EDWARDS
Patricia Lillian
(*née Whyman*)

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 5th December 2018 surrounded by all her family, Pat, aged 90 years. Beloved mother of Tommy, Tina, Yvonne, Maria, Gerald and Tisha. Dearly loved grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother. Also, a loved sister of Harry, Michael, Teresa, Eileen and the late Margaret and Ernie.

Pat will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Thursday, 20th December at 3pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for Ty Hafan or British Heart Foundation c/o funeral director.

O'BRIEN
Michael

Passed away on 4th December at UHW, Cardiff. Son of Jim and Kitty of Newtown, Cardiff. Father of Darren, Sian and Michael. Brother of Carmel, Ann and the late Margaret and Elizabeth. A much loved grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting at Castle Court Funeral Home, Pontypridd until the funeral on 20th December. Service at St Helen's Church, Court Road, Barry at 11.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery at 12.30pm.

Family flowers only. Charitable donations in Michael's memory may be made to Cancer Research Wales c/o the funeral home.

Enquiries telephone 01443 493870.

BRYANT
Jean Marjorie

Peacefully at home on 3rd December 2018, Jean Marjorie, aged 84 years. Dearly loved sister of Catherine and her husband Norman. Much loved aunt to her nephew Steven and his wife Paula and their son Evan.

Resting in the care of A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in our Chapel of Rest at A.G. Adams on Thursday, 20th December at 11am and continuing at 12 noon at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Please respect family flowers only please.

HODGSON
Lesley Ann
(Formerly Hingley (*née* Clemo)

28/2/1951 - 5/12/2018

Suddenly but peacefully in Kelso, Scotland, formerly of Barry, Lesley, loving wife of Keith, daughter of the late Bill and the late Audrey Clemo. Adored sister of Ian and Boof, sister-in-law to Sarah and Jo and loving aunt to Sophie, Bethan, Louis and Freya.

She will be missed by all her family and friends.

A service will be held at Borders Crematorium in Melrose at 3pm on Friday, 14th December.

BARNETT
Joseph

Joe sadly passed away on the 7th December at Holme Towers Penarth, after an illness bravely borne. Joe was a loving son to Margaret Barnett formerly of St Athan, also brother to Robert, Gary, Neil and Nickolas.

A service to celebrate Joe's life will take place at St Athan's Church on Friday, 21st December at 9.30am, followed by a burial in the cemetery at 10.15am.

We will then be having refreshments at Three Horeshoes pub, St Athan.

Family flowers only please by request, all donations are welcome and can be sent to the funeral director or made at the service in memory of Joe, to Holme Towers, Penarth.

Joe's wife Chloe and family would like to thank everyone for their messages of sympathy, support and love at this very sad time. They would like to thank the staff at Holme Towers for all their support and loving care shown to Joe.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Independent Funeral Directors, 29, Holton Road, Barry. Tel 01446 733844.

REES
Sheila Elisabeth

Peacefully at home in Cowbridge, on 10th December. Much loved wife of John. Devoted mum to Susan, Martyn and Michael, mother-in-law to Clive, Elaine and Wendy, and nana to Rhodri, Kim, Rhian, Tal, Matthew, Georgina, Oliver, William and Fay.

Forever in our hearts.

Funeral service to be held at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, 19th December at 3.15pm.

Family flowers only please.

HOBBS
Keith John

Sadly on 9th December at UHW, Keith, passed away aged 82 years. Dearly loved husband of Anne, much loved dad of Louise and devoted barb to Jessica and Olivia. Much respected father-in-law to Will and dear brother of Carole.

Funeral service to be held on Thursday, 20th December at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 9am. Family flowers only by request.

BURROWS
Ronald

Peacefully on November 30th, aged 80. Loving father, grandfather, brother and uncle.

Ronald will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry until the funeral service on Wednesday, 19th December, 12pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only.

TAYLOR
Norma
(Formerly Ayres)

Peacefully on 4th December at the University Hospital of Wales, Norma of Penarth, formerly of Barry, wife of Ken and devoted mother of Anthony Ayres. Loving nan of Michael, Christina, Charlotte, Georgina, Chloe, Charlie and Isabella and godmother to Emily.

Resting at Penarth Funeral Directors, Hickman Road Funeral Home until the Requiem Mass at St Helen's RC Church, Barry on Monday, 17th December at 10.30am, followed by burial at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery at 11.30am.

Flowers may be sent to Hickman Road Funeral Home, Penarth.

PATERSON
Michael

Peacefully on 4th December at Llandough Hospital, Mike of Penarth. Beloved dad of Ian and his wife Sarah, a loving bampy to his four precious granddaughters. A loving brother and cherished by Jayne.

Resting at Penarth Funeral Directors, Hickman Road Funeral Home until the service at All Saints Church, Penarth, on Tuesday, 18th December at 2.45pm, followed by cremation at Barry Crematorium at 4pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for the District Nurses may be received at Church on the day.

MOORE
Eddie

Eddie sadly passed away on 5th December in Llandough Hospital at the age of 87. Much loved husband of Maureen he will be sadly missed by all members of the family.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry until the mass at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church at 11.45am on Wednesday, 19th December, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium at 1pm.

Family flowers only please.

Enquiries to 01446 733844.

SINGER
Eileen Kate

Passed away peacefully on Friday, 30th November 2018, aged 96 years. Much loved wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, friend and mother-in-law.

Funeral service on Wednesday, 19th December 2018 in Emmanuel Christ Church, Morfa Street, Bridgend, CF31 1HA at 1pm, followed by committal in Coychurch Crematorium at 3.45pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers may be given to Age Connect, Cancer Research or Emmanuel Church, Bridgend.

All further enquiries to Rosemount funeral home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP.

JOHNSON
Sandra Kynaston

Passed away peacefully on 1st December 2018 at home with her family by her side. Devoted wife to Roy, loving mum of Neil and daughter-in-law Jayne. Cherished grandmother to Rebecca, Emma and Bethan.

Funeral service on Wednesday, 19th December 2018 in Nolton Church, Bridgend at 12 noon, followed by interment in Laleston Cemetery at 1pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers may be given during the service or sent direct to Cancer Research Wales, Velindre Hospital, Velindre Road, Cardiff, CF14 2TL.

All further enquiries to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP. Tel:- 01656 653156.

WILLIAMS
Rosina May

Peacefully on 1st December, Rosina, loving wife of the late Owen John (Jack the Lamb). Much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother will be sadly missed by all family and friends

Funeral service at St James' Church wick on Monday, 17th December at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations in leiu of flowers may be sent to Velindre Fundraising, Velindre Cancer Care, Velindre Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 2TL.

PRYCE
Glenys

Peacefully after a short illness Glenys, much loved wife of Clive. Loving mother of Stephen, Leighton and Andrew. Much loved and adored grandmother. Loved mother-in law to Margaret, Beth and Melinda. Much loved sister of Anne.

Will be sadly missed by all family and friends

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church Cowbridge on Thursday, 20th December at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations in leiu of flowers may be sent to the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, CF31 1RQ

POWELL
Jean Mary

Peacefully on the 25th November, Jean, aged 88 years passed away. Beloved wife to the late Geoff, cherished mother to Philip and the late Robin.

She will be sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Tuesday, 18th December at 1.45pm, afterwards to Coychurch Crematorium. Donation's in Jean's memory welcome to Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

To advertise your situations vacant, family notices, birthdays, anniversaries, etc, call Sue on 01446 774484.

GEORGE
Arthur

Peacefully on the 1st December, Arthur, a well loved member of the Llantwit Major community, passed away aged 92 years. Beloved husband to the late Pearl, cherished dad to Stephen, Kath and Karen. Much loved grandad to his five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Monday, 17th December at 10am, afterwards to Coychurch Crematorium at 11.30am.

Donations in Arthur's memory welcome to Brocastle Manor Care Home Resident's Fund, Brocastle, Bridgend, CF35 5AU. When donating, please state Arthur's name and make cheques payable to 'Hafod Care Association Ltd'.

In Memory

Christmas Memories

Karon Klee

Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us everyday,
unseen, unheard but always near,
especially at Christmas time
and this time of year.

Love Mum, Dad & Pauline *xxx*

CONIBEAR
John

16th December 2017

In memory of my brother John (Jack).

A good son and brother.
A good soldier.
A good man.

BELLION
Paul

17th December 2015

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather.

We miss you dearly.
Love always,
Anne, Rachel, Samantha, Richard, Natalie, Olivia, Cory, Ethan and Samuel *xxx*

Acknowledgements

CORNISH
Richard

Dianne and family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and attending Richard's funeral. Thank you also for the kind donations, which we have now forwarded to Marie Curie.

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Birthdays

Rebecca Gill

Congratulations on your 21st Birthday on 19th December

All our love Nan and Herbie xxx

Happy 70th Birthday

Avril White

Love from husband Les, daughter Cheryl and sons Mark & Carl xxx

Happy 18th Birthday

Leanne Pitman

on 19th December

Lots of Love Mum, Dad, Daniel, Michael, Sarah & Aaron *xxx*

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Christmas Greetings

Chris Watson

Christmas Notice

Wishing family, friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

All donations go to Parkinsons's Disease in memory of Brian in lieu of cards.

Bonter

Audrey Frances

would like to wish her family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I will be not be sending Christmas cards this year. Donations in lieu will go to, Marie Curie Nurses and Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice.

MARSH

Barbara and John

would like to wish all their family, friends and carers a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Clive Hawkins

of Colwinston

(still alive)

would like to wish all his family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Healthy 2019.

Leonor (Leo) Meredith

would like to wish all her friends and neighbours a

Merry Christmas

&

a Happy New Year

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all my family and friends.

With love from Hilary (Simmons)

Instead of cards a donation will be made to the RNIB.

DUNNING

Dave and Vi wish all their family, friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas.

A donation will be made to charity in lieu of cards.

MAGGS

Wishing all our friends and family a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2019

With much love from David and Jane

This year we are supporting Huggard - Helping the Homeless

Coles

Jan, Jeff & Richard

Wish you a Wonderful Christmas and a Very Happy New Year

Instead of cards, a donation will be made to Charity.

THOMAS

Grace & Len

Wishing all our family, friends and neighbours

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

HOAD

Diane, Alfie and Tabby

Wish family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Instead of cards, a donation will be made to charity

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Hard-fought win for Dinas Powys RFC

THE start of the game between Dinas Powys RFC and Gilfach Goch RFC saw supporters scurry for cover as heavy rain greeted the players onto the field of play.

The Villagers had the strong wind at their backs as they played towards the village in the first half, but the home side generally failed to utilise the elements to their maximum and reached half-time leading 6-0 through two penalties from the boot of outside half Ben White.

These came after 15 minutes and the Villagers failed to add to their total during the resmainder of the half.

The visitors belied their lowly league position and with the elements in their favour they soon reduced the deficit to 6-3 following a penalty after 10 minutes of the second half.

The home side responded within five minutes with the first try of the contest, a powerful carry by hooker Tom Baister allowing scrum half Sam Middlemiss to find left wing Nathan Williams to scamper down the tryline.

An inside pass as the cover came across and found second row Rhodri Phillips to romp over from 30 metres.

The Dinas forwards were gaining the upper hand and skipper Baister was supported admirably in ball carrying duties by number eight Josh Dunleavy, second row Rhys Hall and flanker Corey Imperatto.

However it was in the scrum that the pressure was really being applied and loosehead prop James Greenfield once again was instrumental as a powerful five metre scrum was rewarded with a penalty try.

The fact that a penalty try was awarded meant that there was no need to kick the conversion and the Villagers extended their lead to 18-6.

The visitors responded bravely and only superb tackling by the home side limited the visitors to a single try during the contest; to the fore, as ever, in this area was the impeccable flanker Lewis Dunleavy.

The conversion of the Gilfach try went wide in the atrocious conditions and the home side led by 18-11.

This was to be the final score as the contest concluded with the Villagers camped deep in the Gilfach half of the pitch and in the descending gloom the final whistle a hard-fought, but ultimately deserved, victory was gained.

HJ

Seniors back in action

After a week of their regular competitions being rained off, 27 members of St Mary's Golf Club's senior section finally took to the fairways for a Stableford competition.

The further promised rain duly appeared and by popular choice, the competition was played over a shortened course of just 12 holes.

Conditions were very wet underfoot and putting was particularly testing due to water on the greens slowing things down.

Nevertheless, some good cards were returned with two players sharing the lead in the clubhouse on net 26 points, two better than par over the 12 holes.

Thanks to a net birdie on the notoriously difficult 17th, Trevor Evans not only joined the leading pair but his back six total was sufficient to secure the win following a count-back.

Veteran campaigner Bob Coombes was placed second and Owen Maund completed the placings.

NL

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KIA WARRANTY AUG 2023

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T GDI GT-Line AWD 5dr, Kia warranty Aug 2023, sat nav, 19"alloys, full leather, choice £16995

VW WARRANTYDEC 2019

16 66 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI BMT SE NAV 4Motion 5dr DSG, VW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, cruise, 18k, choice £22495

15 65 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (7-Seater), sat nav, reverse camera, green, full leather £15995

JEEP WARRANTY OCT 2020

17 67 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 MultiJet 200 Limited 5dr Automatic, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, privacy glass, 12k, black, full leather £23995

RANGE ROVER WARRANTY JULY 2020

17 17 RANGE ROVER VELAR 2.0 D HSE 5dr Automatic 4x4, Land Rover warranty July 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, head up display, rear DVD, silver, full leather £47995

15 15 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 CRDI Limited 5dr Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, choice, full leather £14795

JAGUAR WARRANTY JAN 2021

17 67 JAGUAR F-PACE 3.0 DV6 S AWD 5dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, 20"alloys, reverse camera, 9k, black, full leather £39995

12 62 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr AWD, pan roof, sat nav, bose, heated seats, black £9995

KIA WARRANTY OCT 2023

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI First Edition 5dr AWD Automatic, Kia warranty Oct 2023, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 24k, white, full leather £21495

HYUNDAI WARRANTY JJULY 2021

16 16 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI BlueDrive Premium SE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty July 2021, sat nav, pan roof, heated seats, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 21k, beige with full leather £21495

BMW WARRANTY NOV 2020

17 67 BMW 225 XE PHEV Sport Active Tourer 5dr 4WD Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 4k, black £20995

16 66 AUDI A4 ALLROAD 3.0 TDI Quattro Sport Estate S-Tronic, Audi warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, privacy glass, 21k, white, full leather £26995

16 66 AUDI A7 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Black Edition 5dr Automatic, Audi warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, 21"alloys, 23k, bose, white, full leather £28995

15 15 AUDI S3 2.0 TFSI Quattro 3dr S-Tronic, sat nav, pdc, Bluetooth, heated seats, red, full leather £20995

16 66 AUDI S3 2.0 TFSI Quattro 3dr, Audi warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, heated seats, xenons, 23k, white, half-leather £23995

14 14 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI S-Line Quattro 5dr, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, dab, 38k, black, half-leather £15995

15 65 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Plus 5dr S-Tronic, sat nav, dab, heated seats, 33k, grey, half-leather £20995

14 64 AUDI Q7 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Plus 5dr Tiptronic (7-Seater), sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, bose sound system, 42k, grey, full leather £28995

17 67 BMW 225 XE PHEV Sport Active Tourer 5dr 4WD Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 4k, black £20995

16 66 BMW 335 DXDRIVE M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2019, M sport + pack, sat nav, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, 16k, blue, full leather £23495

16 66 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic 4WD, BMW warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, electric glass sunroof, 19"Alloys, reverse camera, heated seats, 18k, red £21995

15 64 BMW 420 DXDRIVE M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, pro sat nav, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, full leather, 26k, met black £19995

16 16 BMW 420 DXDRIVE M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, 19"alloys, widescreen sat nav, 23k, met grey, full leather £21995

16 16 BMW X1 2.0 DXDrive M Sport 5dr, BMW warranty June 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 24k, met white £19995

16 16 BMW X3 30D M Sport XDRIVE 5dr automatic, BMW warranty April 2019, 19"alloys, sat nav, Bluetooth, 14k, grey £24995

15 15 BMW X4 D XDRIVE XLine 4dr Automatic, sat nav, pdc, 26k, red, full leather £22495

15 65 BMW X4 2.0 DXDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, privacy glass, black, full leather £20995

16 66 FORD EDGE 2.0 TDCI 210 Titanium 5dr Powershift 4WD, Ford warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, cruise, 19"alloys, reverse camera, black £22495

16 66 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRD Premium 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, 18"alloys, cruise, privacy glass, 18k, black, full leather £20995

16 16 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI BlueDrive Premium SE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty July 2021, sat nav, pan roof, heated seats, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 21k, beige with full leather £21495

17 67 JAGUAR F-PACE 3.0 DV6 S AWD 5dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, 20"alloys, reverse camera, 9k, black, full leather £39995

15 15 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 CRDI Limited 5dr Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, choice, full leather £14795

15 65 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 MultiJet II 200 Limited 5dr Automatic 4WD, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 38k, white, full leather £16995

17 67 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 MultiJet 200 Limited 5dr Automatic, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, privacy glass, 12k, black, full leather £23995

16 16 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD Summit 5dr 4x4 Automatic, Jeep warranty April 2019, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 20"alloys, met red, full leather £23995

16 16 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 M-Jet II Longitude 5dr 4WD, Jeep warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, pan roof, 17"alloys, blue, 22k £13995

18 68 KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRDI GT-Line S 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Kia warranty Sept 2025, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, only 527 miles, grey, full leather £34995

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T GDI GT-Line AWD 5dr, Kia warranty Aug 2023, sat nav, 19"alloys, full leather, choice £16995

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T-GDI GT-Line 5dr Automatic AWD, Kia warranty Sept 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 24k, black, full leather £18995

15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-3 5dr 4WD, Kia warranty Oct 2022, pan roof, reverse camera, 31k, black, full leather £14295

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-4 AWD 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, reverse camera, 23k, met red, full leather £19495

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD GT-Line 5dr 4WD, sat nav, 19" alloys, reverse camera, heated seats, 8k, white with full leather £18495

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD KX-2 5dr Automatic 4WD, KIA warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 24k, silver £16995

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI First Edition 5dr AWD Automatic, Kia warranty Oct 2023, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 24k, white, full leather £21495

17 67 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD GT-Line S 5dr Automatic, Kia warranty Oct 2024, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 13k, red, full leather £22995

15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.0 TD4 180 HSE 5dr Automatic 4x4 7-Seater, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 15k, black, full leather £26995

17 17 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.0 TD4 SE 5dr Tech Pack Automatic (7 Seater), sat nav, 10k, black, half-leather £27995

15 15 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.2 SD4 HSE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater) 4x4, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, black pack, 28k, met red, full leather £24995

15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 4 3.0 SD V6 SE Tech 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), sat nav, 19"alloys, cruise, 30k, silver, full leather £29995

16 66 MERCEDES CLA45 2.0 AMG 4dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2019, 19"alloys, cruise, 16k, black, half-leather £30995

15 15 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 D Cooper Business Edition All4 5dr Automatic, sat nav, white £13995

14 14 MINI PACEMAN 1.6 Cooper S ALL4 3dr (190bhp)(Chili & TLC Pack) 18"alloys, heated seats, Bluetooth, black, full leather £9795

14 14 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DIG-T Nismo 5dr 4WD CVT Automatic (197bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 18"alloys, white £10995

12 62 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr AWD, pan roof, sat nav, bose, heated seats, black £9995

15 15 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, white, full leather £12495

15 65 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (7-Seater), sat nav, reverse camera, green, full leather £15995

15 65 RANGEROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 HSE Dynamic 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 20k, red, full leather £27995

15 15 RANGEROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Pure 5dr 4WD Automatic, pan roof, heated seats, red, full leather £20995

15 15 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Pure Tech 5dr 4WD (190bhp), sat nav, pan roof, 18"alloys, 35k, met grey, full leather £20495

16 66 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 SE 5dr Automatic 4WD, Land Rover warranty Nov 2019, 18"alloys, privacy glass, heated seats, white, full leather £24995

16 66 RANGE ROVER VOGUE 3.0 TDV6 Vogue 4dr Automatic, Land Rover warranty Sept 2019, pan roof, sat nav, grey, full leather £45995

17 17 RANGE ROVER VELAR 2.0 D HSE 5dr Automatic 4x4, Land Rover warranty July 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, head up display, rear DVD, silver, full leather £47995

16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI BlueMotionTech R 5dr 4WD (300bhp), VW warranty June 2019, xenons, cruise, 15k, choice £20995

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI R 5dr DSG 4WD, VW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 22k, blue £23495

16 16 VW PASSAT ALLTRACK 2.0 TDI 190 4Motion Estate DSG, VW warranty July 2019, sat nav, pdc, privacy glass, 16k, grey £18995

15 65 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI BMT Tech Match 4Motion 5dr, sat nav, 17"alloys, white £13995

16 66 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI BMT SE NAV 4Motion 5dr DSG, VW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, cruise, 18k, choice £22495

16 16 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D5 220 SE 5dr Automatic 4WD, Volvo warranty April 2019, sat nav, privacy glass, white, half-leather £20995

14 14 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D4 181 SE Lux Nav AWD 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, black, full leather £16495

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15 65 BMW 116 D Efficient Dynamics Plus 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, dab, choice....£11295

12 12 BMW 118 D Exclusive Edition 2dr Convertible, heated seats, Bluetooth, grey, full leather....£7495

15 64 BMW M135i 3.0 M Sports 5dr automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, 34k, orange, full oyster leather....£17495

16 16 BMW 220i Luxury Active Tourer 5dr, BMW warranty April 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 15k, silver, full leather....£16495

18 18 BMW 320 I M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty April 2021, reverse camera, heated seats, sat nav, Harman kardon, 7k, blue, full leather....£21995

17 67 BMW 330 2.0 E SE 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat av, 18"M sport alloys, 11k, privacy glass, choice....£19995

16 66 BMW 420 I Luxury Gran Coupe 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 16k, white, full leather....£20995

16 16 BMW 430i M Sport 2dr Automatic, M sport plus pack, 19" alloys, Harman Kardon, wide screen sat nav, met grey, full leather....£21995

15 15 BMW 430D M Sport Gran Coupe automatic, M Sport Plus pack, sat nav, head-up display, 19"alloys, tanzanite blue, full leather....£20995

12 62 BMW 520 DSE 4dr Automatic, BMW business sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, grey, full leather....£10495

15 15 BMW 520 DSE 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather....£13495

15 65 BMW 520 DM Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather....£14495

15 15 BMW M5 4.4 4dr DCT Automatic, sunroof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 34k, blue, full leather....£30995

14 14 BMW 640 DM Sport 2dr Automatic, sunroof, sat nav, head up display, soft close doors, 43k, carbon black, full ivory white leather....£21995

16 66 CITROEN C1 1.0 VTI Feel 5dr, Citroen warranty Oct 2019, air-con, Bluetooth, aux, usb, dab, choice....£5795

14 14 CITROEN DS3 1.6 E-HDI 115 Airdream DSport 3dr, air-con, aux, cruise, 30k, white....£6995

16 66 DS DS3 1.6 BlueHDI Prestige 3dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, dab, black....£8495

15 15 DS DS4 1.6 BlueHDI DStyle Nav 5dr, sat nav, cruise, pdc, aux, white....£7995

15 65 FIAT 500 0.9 TwinAir Vintage 57 3dr, Bluetooth, blue, full leather....£6295

17 17 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, Bluetooth, PDC, 14k, choice....£7295

15 65 FIAT 500X 1.6 D MultiJet Cross 5dr, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, privacy glass, 31k, red....£9495

16 65 FORD ECOSPORT 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, blue, half-leather....£8995

16 16 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 3dr, Ford warranty August 2019, air-con, 17"alloys, privacy glass, choice....£9495

18 67 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost ST-Line 3dr (New Model), Ford warranty February 2021, sat nav, 17"Alloys, Bluetooth, 8k, choice....£12995

16 66 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI ST-Line 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, DAB, 16k, black....£12495

15 15 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI Titanium X Navigation 5dr, reverse camera, heated seats, black, half-leather....£9495

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14 64 FORD MONDEO 1.6 TDCI Eco Titanium X Business Edition Estate, sat nav, pdc front + rear, red, half-leather....£8995

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15 65 HYUNDAI I30 1.6 CRD Bluedrive SE 5dr, air con, Bluetooth, 14k, met blue....£9295

15 65 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRDI BlueDrive SE Nav 5dr, Hyundai warranty Oct 2020, reverse camera, sat nav, grey....£12495

15 65 JAGUAR XE 2.0 D 180 R-Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, cruise, heated seats, dab, privacy glass, 25k, black, full leather....£17995

14 64 KIA CARENS 1.7 CRDI 3 5dr (7-Seater), Kia warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, reverse camera, 33k, silver, full leather....£11995

17 66 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI ISG GT-Line S Estate Automatic, Kia warranty Feb 2024, pan roof, sat nav, reversing camera, heated seats, 15k, met red, full leather....£17995

16 16 MAZDA 2 1.5 Sport Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty June 2019, sat nav, cruise, privacy glass, 28k, red....£8995

13 63 MAZDA 3 1.6 Tamura 5dr, 17"alloys, 15k, met grey....£6995

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17 17 MAZDA 6 2.2 D SE-L Nav Estate, Mazda warranty April 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, pdc, dab, aux & usb, white....£13795

15 15 MAZDA CX-5 2.2 D Sport Nav 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, reverse camera, 19"alloys, red, full leather....£12495

15 15 MERCEDES A180 1.6 SE 5dr, reverse camera, air-con, Bluetooth, pdc, grey....£10995

16 66 MERCEDES AMG C63 4.0 Premium Estate Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2019, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 21k, black, full leather....£37995

16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 Sport Estate, Mercedes warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, grey, half leather....£17995

16 16 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic (New Model), sat nav, cruise, heated seats, choice, half-leather....£21495

10 60 MINI COOPER 1.6 Camden 3dr, cruise, Bluetooth, 55k, silver, half-leather....£5995

16 66 MINI COOPER 2.0 D S 5dr, Mini warranty Oct 2019, privacy glass, Bluetooth, dab 16"alloys in black, 6k, white....£13495

17 17 MINI COOPER 2.0 S Seven 5dr (192bhp), Mini warranty June 2020, media pack XL, sat nav, chili pack, 8k, black....£16995

15 65 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 Cooper D Business Edition 5dr, sat nav, cruise, 17"alloys, 33k, white....£12795

17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DIG-T Acenta 5dr (New Model), Nissan warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, tech pack, 5k, red....£15995

16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr X-Tronic 7-Seater, Nissan warranty Oct 2019, pan roof, cruise, 23k, black....£16495

17 67 RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCE Energy Expression + 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2021, Bluetooth, cruise, 6k, black....£10995

16 16 RENAULT KADJAR 1.5 DCI Signature Nav 5dr, Renault warranty August 2020, pan roof, bose, sat nav, sat nav, 19"alloys, 25k, red, half-leather....£13995

17 17 SEAT ATECA 1.6 TDI Ecomotive Technology SE 5dr, Seat warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 18"alloys, choice....£14995

16 16 SEAT LEON 2.0 TSI Cupra 3dr, Seat warranty August 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 19"alloys, 15k, red, full leather....£16995

17 67 SEAT LEON 1.4 TSI 125 FR Technology 5dr, Seat warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, choice from....£13995

15 65 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI VRS 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 33k, white, half-leather....£14995

16 66 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI SE-L 5dr, Skoda warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, dab, black....£11995

17 17 SKODA SUPERB 2.0 TDI Laurin & Klement 5dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, full leather, silver....£18995

16 16 SUZUKI VITARA 1.6 DDIS SZ5, Suzuki warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, pan roof, turquoise....£11995

17 17 TOYOTA C-HR 1.2 Excel 5dr, Toyota warranty April 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 18"alloys, heated seats, black, full leather....£17495

17 17 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 Energy Ecoflex 5dr, Vauxhall warranty April 2020, Bluetooth, cruise, 13k, grey....£7995

16 16 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.6 CDTI ecoFLEX Design 5dr, Bluetooth, cruise, 28k, silver....£8995

17 66 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI (170) EcoFlex SRI NAV Estate, Vauxhall warranty Jan 2020, sat nav, 17"alloys, blue....£10995

11 11 VW BEETLE 1.4 Luna Convertible 75ps, pdc, alloys, red....£4995

16 66 VW GOLF 1.0 TSI Match Bluemotion Edition 5dr, VW warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, heated seats, Bluetooth, cruise, 10k, silver....£13995

15 65 VW GOLF 1.4 TSI GTE 5dr Automatic, xenons, adaptive cruise, 37k, white....£15995

15 15 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech GT 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, pdc, grey....£10495

16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GTD 5dr, VW warranty June 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, black....£15995

16 66 VW POLO 1.4 TSI ACT Blue GT 3dr, VW warranty Dec 2019, electric glass sunroof, Bluetooth, cruise, choice....£11995

11 61 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech 3dr, Bluetooth, air-con, white....£7995

16 66 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 GT TDI BLUEMOTION TECHNOLOGY 3dr, VW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 16k, white....£15995

16 16 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI Blue Motion Tech 5dr, VW warranty March 2019, sat nav, dab, aux, 37k, black....£12995

14 64 VOLVO V40 1.6 D2 R-Design 5dr, cruise, heated seats, dab, Bluetooth, choice....£9495

16 66 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design Nav 5dr, Volvo warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 18"alloys, privacy glass, 15k, black, half-leather....£20995

16 66 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI BMT SE NAV 5dr, VW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, cruise, 18"alloys, aux, usb, 9k, grey **£20995**

16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 D AMG Line 4dr, Mercedes warranty Dec 2019, cruise, Bluetooth, 11k, white, half-leather **£19995**

15 15 FIAT 500 1.2 S 3dr, air-con, Bluetooth, alloys, aux, usb, white, half-leather **£5795**

15 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Tec + 5dr, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, cruise, choice **£10995**

15 65 JEEP RENEGADE 1.4 MultiAir Longitude 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, 36k, grey **£9995**

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60 MERCEDES B160 Blue Efficiency Sport In black, 64,000 miles, nice example **£5,995**

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10 HONDA Civic 1.8 Si 5-Dr In red, 91,000 miles, very nice throughout ..... Reduced to **£4,495**

11 FORD FIESTA 1.4TDCi Edge, 5-Dr, In silver, 60,000 miles, £20 road tax **£4,295**

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59 MAZDA 3 1.6 S 5dr, in electric blue, 67,000 miles, ideal family car.....**£3,995**

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12 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 Active 3dr In white, 52,000 miles, 2 owners with A/C.....**£3,995**

12 KIA Picanto 1.0 3-Dr In black, 47,000 miles, free road tax, low insurance **£3,995**

11 FORD Ka 1.2 Edge In black, 32,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,995**

60 HYUNDAI i10 Classic 1.2, 5-Dr In black, 45,000 miles, low insurance and road tax.....**£3,495**

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Blast From The Past 2003 with Brian Lee

GEM columnist Brian Lee, who has been reporting on the Welsh hunt racing scene for the national and local press for more than half-a-century, takes another look at one of his many press cutting books.

Brian, 82, the author of The Welsh Grand National – from *Deerstalker* to *Emperor's Choice* (The History Press) and Racing Rogues – The Scams, Scandals and Gambles of Horse Racing in Wales (St David's Press), looks back to 2002 when Llancarfan's Evan Williams brought the national point-to-point riders' championship to Wales.

The Vale's Evan Williams certainly helped to keep Wales firmly on the map when winning The Daily Telegraph-sponsored National Point-To-Point Riders Championship.

Evan, 32, rode 38 winners, one more than former dual champion Julian Pritchard from Hereford and 30 of those winners were trained by Evan himself.

Bred into the sport, his mother Mary and father Rhys both rode winners between-the-flags. Family man Evan is married to Bridgend girl Catherine,whom he met at a point-to-point and they have three children.

Evan, who once played rugby for Glamorgan Wanderers, notched up his first winner in only his second ride on his father's *Cuckoo Mill* in 1989 at the Llangibby meeting.

However, he had to wait nearly four years before he chalked-up his first win under Rules on *News Review* in the 1993 Bet With The Tote Novice Chase at Stratford,when he pipped leading jockey Steve Smith Eccles in an exciting finish.

But he didn't have time to celebrate, as he had to dash home to milk the cows on his father's farm.

Only two other Welshmen have ridden more point-to-point winners than Evan – the legendary John Llewellyn from Cowbridge, who rode 270 and west Walian Jamie Jukes who has ridden 184 ,winners.

It was back in 1992 that Evan broke the stranglehold on the Welsh riders' title by beating former champion John Llewellyn, Tim Jones, Tim Rooney and Paul Hamer, who between them had dominated the Welsh scene for the previous 15 years.

Christian Williams, 20, fulfilled his youthful promise when winning last season's leading hunter chase riders award sponsored by Chase Publications.

A graduate of the Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club, Christian, who in 1999 won the Daily Telegraph novice riders' championship, won nine hunter chases, the majority of them for Welsh trainer Dai Williams, a former point-to-point rider himself.

Now based at Paul Nicholls' yard, Christian chalked-up his first winner between-the-flags on his father Robert's prolific *Touch 'n'Pass* in only his second ride.

That 1999 season Christian made hunt-racing history when riding a hat-trick at the Tredegar Farmers' meeting, a feat which had never been achieved by a 16-year-old.

One rider Christian will have to watch out for this season is his younger brother Nicky, who in his first season showed a lot of promise riding four winners.

Another Welshman who has made a name for himself is Pembrokeshire-based Marc Barber, who won last season's National novice riders' championship.

Marc, 20, rode his first winner on *True Fortune* in 2000. We are going to be hearing a lot more from him.'

**Email your horse racing stories and pictures to Brian at brianlee4@virginmedia.com or telephone 02920736438.*

Barrivale bridge

THE results for the Barrivale club night on December 4 are as follows.

The top three places: first, Peter Millar and Mike Close 65.63; joint second: Irene Thomas and Sean MacDougall 59.52 per cent and Diane and Adrian Trickey 59.52 per cent.

The handicap winners were Pat Price and Alan Rees.

As always, we welcome new members at the club and a partner may be arranged, if required.

If you would like to join us call any of the following numbers: 01446 418380, 01446 733425 or 01446 735592, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry at 7pm on Tuesday evening for more information.

LH

Presentation night held at St Athan Golf Club

PRESENTATION night at St Athan Golf Club is always a well-attended event, and this year was no exception as all sections of the club gathered to pay their respects to those comrades who had been successful in competitions held during the year.

Throughout the season, the club competitions epitomised perfectly the reason why golf is such a popular sport; age nor gender is a barrier, strangers become allies and compatriots become short-term rivals when pitched against each other in matches.

Each member's allegiance was tested as they witnessed the finals matches, especially those that comprised father against son, brothers going into battle, father and son-in-law coming head-to-head, females taking on the males and golfers wanting to thrash their best friends!

At the end of year presentation, the plaudits were warmly welcomed by all of the finalists with the applause clearly audible when Will Thomas collected his winner's trophy after beating his father Gerald in the Anthony Brown Trophy.

Keith Lewis acknowledged the commiserations for his loss in the Midland Bank competition against father-in-law Steve Kenyon, while brothers Ralph and Fred O'Carroll were deafened by the rapturous acclamation given when they collected their trophies, Fred emerging the winner for the Junior Championship title.

The cheering was at fever-pitch for two of the club's youngest members, Alfie Smith and George Coleman, best friends who both fought valiantly in a knockout competition organised specifically for the younger golfers, taking into account their age and ability.

Even though George was beaten by the better player in the final round, he was delighted to receive the biggest applause and was presented with the Elderflower Salver, an accolade awarded to the junior who always tries their hardest, shows extreme dedication, conducts themselves impeccably and is a pleasure to have in their section.

The club members are extremely proud of all of the competitors and congratulate each and every one of them.

For further information on the club, please contact the club manager on 01446 751043.

CM

Community chest helps sports clubs in the Vale

A TOTAL of 10 Vale organisations have been successful in securing £12,761 of Community Chest funding to develop new and to expand existing sports opportunities.

Rhoose Lifeguards, Islanders Girls Cluster Centre (Rugby), Holton Road AFC, Penarth Women FC, Barry Town United Ladies FC, Vale Cricket Club and YMCA Barry all benefitted from funding to send coaches and volunteers on training courses.

The Vale Girls Basketball club was also awarded funding for coach education, along with funding to support the creation of a new under-12s sessions.

Wenvoe Castle Golf Club received funding to increase opportunities for females as well as juniors, while Barry Island Boxing has been supported to increase opportunities for juniors.

The Community Chest scheme is funded by Sport Wales and managed locally by the Vale Council's Healthy Living Team.

Applications are considered by a panel of community volunteers, a representative from Sport Wales and a Vale Council representative.

The funding can be used for areas such as coach and volunteer education, purchase of equipment, marketing and initial facility hire for new activities.

If you are part of an organisation, and are interested in developing opportunities, then the Community Chest funding could help.

The next Community Chest panel meeting will take place on Thursday, January 31, with a deadline date of Thursday, January 17, 2019 for applications to be submitted.

To discuss a potential project, call Karen Davies, principal healthy living officer on 01446 704793 or e-mail KJDavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Phoenix tested by All Whites

Rhiannon Thomas (Picture by Julie Hancock).

THIS was always going to be a difficult match for Pencoed Phoenix against a Swansea Ladies' side made up of several Welsh internationals and regional players.

The Phoenix task was compounded by the loss of arguably around six first choice players through injury and non-availability.

The Swansea side chose passive scrums from the outset, appearing to the onlooker unnecessary as their side boasted two internationals in their front row alone.

With Phoenix unable to compete and hinder possession at the set piece, a steady stream of guaranteed possession followed and the wide open spaces of the old St Helens ground were used to devastating effect with the All Whites scoring seven tries in each half, resulting in the one sided 82-8 win.

In a valiant Phoenix effort, outside half Leanne Burnell was outstanding in both attack and defence and up front, back row forward Emily Hughes was once again exemplary in the tackle area. There will now be a cessation of the National League programme for the Christmas recess before resuming the second half of the season with return fixtures.

TR

Captains club together

THE captains of St Mary's Golf Club's men's, ladies' and senior sections – Steve Ryan, Kath McGrath and Hugh Williams – all combined their charity fundraising efforts through 2018 in support of the Wales MS Society.

At a a recent presentation evening at St Mary's, Adele Gilmour, the Information and Support Manager for Wales MS came along to receive a cheque for £2,757, the accumulated proceeds of the three captains' separate charity funds.

Ms Gilmour explained that the charity relies on donations from the public as they receive no government funding.

She went on to explain that a great deal of what is raised goes towards research and development at Cardiff and Swansea Universities, aimed at identifying preventive measures, effective treatments, care and support of both patients and families and the living of independent lives.

Pictured above, left to right, are Adele Gilmour, Steve Ryan, Kate McGrath and Hugh Williams.

NL

Barry Chess Club go two for two!

IN a remarkable change of fortune, the Barry Chess Club had two teams in action and recorded two victories.

The Camelots played host to the Caerphilly Knights. On paper, the Barry team appeared to be stronger with all five players being rated near or above their opponents.

The Knights, however, could not be underestimated, having obtained a clean sweep to win 5-0 in their previous match against Bridgend B.

There was a first win of the season for Joe Turner on board 1 with John Stephenson on board 5 also recording a win.

Dave Parsons and Tom Cooke earned draws to give the Camelots their first win of the season by a score of 3-2.

The Camelots lie in seventh position.They earned 7.5 points from the first four games and sit 1.5 points above bottom side Bridgend B and still to play one another. In Division 4 the Stauntons travelled to north Cardiff to play a young Penguins team. Barry returned home with a big victory with Martin Ricketts, Dave Mahoney, Erion Pici and Sian Balchin all earning wins.

On top board, Peter Watkins took a draw to give a winning margin of 4.5-0.5. A large margin was anticipated because of the ratings of all the respective players; however, wins and points still need to be earned.

This was the Stauntons' second win of the season. Barry has earned three draws and a solitary defeat so far.

The Stauntons sit in fifth place but have moved into contention for promotion. After six matches, Barry are only one point below the Pontypridd Goshawks in second place. This week's match between the top two, Pentyrch C and the Goshawks, may go a long way to determining the divisional champions, even though there are still 10 rounds to play.

Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm on Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. For more details, visit barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

Phil Jones

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Athletic exit Plate at the hands of Treorchy

BRIDGEND Athletic produced a much-improved display at Newbridge Fields, but it was insufficient to prevent them bowing out of the National Plate cup competition at the third round stage with a narrow 18-20 defeat against fellow Division One East competitors Treorchy.

Treorchy kicked off with a strong westerly wind gusting directly behind them. A 40-metre penalty from Treorchy outside half and captain Jordan Lloyd in the second minute saw the away side take an early lead.

The Athletic failed to kick the restart the required 10 metres and Treorchy had a scrum on the halfway line. They set up a series of forward drives before moving the ball to Lloyd who sliced clean through the Athletic defence and two passes saw wing Steffan Jones race over in the corner. Lloyd converted from the touchline to give his side a 10-point lead in under four minutes.

Dan James scores his fourth try of the season. For more pictures from JOHN CANNON, go to glamorgan-gem.co.uk/sport.

It looked like the defensive frailties of recent weeks were again going to haunt the Athletic. Captain Ben Howe rallied his troops and with fellow back row forwards Sean Williams and Ben Davies set an example that was picked up by the rest of the team. Centres Chris Price and Tom Jenkins were also sound in halting the potent attacking potential of the Treorchy three quarters.

The Athletic came back into the game with a penalty from full back Robin Davies. They also twice laid siege to the Treorchy line but lacked the composure and decision-making to come away with much-needed points.

On the half hour mark Treorchy were awarded a penalty three metres inside their own half. Lloyd had the accuracy and aided by the wind the ball was still climbing as it cleared the crossbar to extend the lead to 13-3.

The Athletic responded and drove back into the Treorchy 22. Scrum half Aled Thomas threw a looped pass to wing Owain Leyshon who skipped around his opposite number to cross in the corner. To the consternation of the Athletic coaches the referee ruled the pass forward. Undismayed the Athletic continued to press.

Their driving maul had caused problems and with the last move of the half captain Ben Howe chose to put a penalty into touch.

Ben Cording caught Nathan Holman's line out throw and set up the driving maul. Holman joined at the back and steered the maul over the line for his first try of the season to reduce the deficit to 13-8.

The first 25 minutes of the second half were largely a stalemate and the Athletic brought on substitutes prop Rhodri Apsee, lock Jonathon Stoker and scrum half Dan James. Apsee made some powerful runs. However, Stoker was sent back to the touchline within five minutes of joining the action with a yellow card for a lineout offence.

Full back Robin Davies then broke the deadlock with his second penalty to reduce the Athletic deficit to two points at 11-13. Two minute later they took the lead as Dan James swooped on the loose ball to cross under the posts. Davies converted to give the Athletic an 18-13 lead with 10 minutes remaining.

Successive penalties from the restart gave Treorchy a chance to set up a five-metre driving maul. The Athletic seven-man pack halted the drive but when the ball was recycled into midfield Lloyd put a grubber kick behind the Athletic defence and centre Lloyd Williams won the race to touchdown under the posts.

Lloyd's conversion put Treorchy back in the lead at 20-18 and the remaining eight minutes saw Treorchy comfortably home as the Athletic's play became frantic and error-strewn.

The coaches now know what they need to work on going into the second half of the season, starting with a visit to Dinas Powys this coming Saturday, December 15.

Tondu grind out much-needed win

Aled Jones crosses the try line for Tondu in their win over Aberavon Quins. See more pictures from Gareth Anthony at glamorgan-gem.co.uk/sport.

ON a dark miserable day that not only made it difficult to play rugby, but also made things difficult for our cameraman, Tondu RFC managed to find the try line on three occasions against Aberavon Quins.

It took 20 minutes for them to open their account as, after a period of strong pressure from the home side, a poor clearance kick from under his posts by centre Dean Scully went straight to outside half Matthew Murphy.

He then avoided the out coming Quins defence to feed Gareth Lindenburn who sailed over wide out.

Tondu had other opportunities to add to their score, but white line fever meant it stayed at 5-0 as we reached half-time.

The second period again saw the home side moving forward, and it only took five minutes for them to add to their lead, a wonderful crossfield move with some excellent handling skills, centre Stuart Young sending out a sublime pass to full back Aled Jones for the pocket dynamo to fly over in the corner.

The visitors certainly had chances to get back into the game, but handling errors and an astute Tondu defence kept them out.

Midway through the second half a barnstorming run down the right by replacement hooker Owen Thomas saw him beat three would-be defenders to score in the corner.

Near the end, while the home side were reduced to 14 men, Craig Cox managed a consultation try for the Quins, converted by Ryan Pugh, but it was too late to dampen Tondu's spirit, and they held on for a deserved win that moved them out of the drop zone.

Tondu entertain Skewen on Saturday, when they will hope to continue their improvement to secure their first back-to-back wins of the season.

Tondu Youth's game with Aberavon Green Stars was postponed on Saturday and the seconds were without a fixture.

MIKE SULLY

The Bridgend Athletic RFC mini and junior rugby round-up

FOR Bridgend Athletic RFC, only the under-11 and under-16 age groups were in action.

The under-11s made the short distance to Pandy Park for a local derby with Tondu.

Tondu and Bridgend Athletic games between all age groups and even senior sides has always brought out a fierce rivalry between the two sides for local bragging rights.

In an extremely tough first half the Athletic crossed for the opening try after 10 minutes.

With Tondu's specialist age group pitch it was the first experience for the Athletic of attempting to converting a try.

Tondu fought back and the following 10 minutes produced a fantastic defensive display by Bridgend as Tondu had most of the possession and territory during this quarter.

The Athletic line held firm, keeping the Waterwheelers out to maintain a slender 5-0 half-time advantage.

After team talks the second half kicked off and within the first five minutes Bridgend scored a second try from individual talents in an excellent three-quarter move.

A minute or two later another fantastic display of individual brilliance in the backs saw a third try scored and an historic first conversion for this age group

After this it seemed that Tondu players heads dropped a little and with the Bridgend forwards on the rampage the front row and second rows were crashing through Tondu's defensive line and scoring tries.

A fantastic display of team work allied to individual brilliance and attitude was demonstrated as the Athletic ended 38-0 victors with six tries and four conversions.

Following recent up and down displays the Athletic coaches and parents were both surprised and extremely proud of the squad's display.

They hope that they can maintain that level of intensity and attitude which will make the under-11 team difficult to beat.

The under-16s travelled to Lougher for their final group game of the Ospreys Cup.

Despite an amazing 28 to one penalty count against them, they managed a 28-22 win to top the group and progress to the quarter-final stages of the cup.

The Ath dominated the first 10 minutes with some fantastic attacks led by Harrison Morgan who was in a barnstorming mood. However, despite the total dominance, a string of often inexplicable penalties awarded to Lougher saw them score two tries to lead 10-0.

However, after about 20 minutes, a pre-arranged move from a line out saw Thom Lewis throw a long pass to Tom Florence who hit the line like an express train to score under the posts from 30 metres out, duly converted by Euan Rees.

This spurred the Ath on and a fantastic run from Fynn Mordecai saw him beat three players before offloading to Ollie Gibbs who charged towards the line.

He was stopped just short but Fynn was again on hand to crash over wide out, again magnificently converted by Euan Rees. The half-time score was 14-10 to the Ath.

The second half continued in the same vein with the Ath dominating the game, however constantly finding themselves penalised and taken 10 metres back for no apparent reason, and a yellow card was given to Harrison Morgan.

Despite this setback fantastic handling from backs and forwards saw Xander Molitika on the charge. He created an overlap and fed Callum Reed who went on a jinking run towards the line beating five defenders.

Callum was dragged down agonisingly short; however, Ryan Neagle was on hand to pick up and drive over from short range, again converted by Euan Rees.

Another raft of penalties was awarded against the Ath enabling Lougher to score two tries and Michael Gillette was consigned to the sin bin.

Lougher were remarkably leading going into the last 10 minutes but Ayo Elagan's try, and Euan's calmly-kicked conversion put the Ath back on and they dominated the final five minutes to win.

AB

Maesteg Celtic slip to away defeat at Ammanford

MAESTEG Celtic made six changes from last week's winning side for their Division One visit to Ammanford.

The pitch was in very good condition considering the weather but there was a very strong wind blowing down the field from the west.

Ammanford opened the scoring when a Celtic attack broke down on halfway and a speculative kick ahead was gathered for a converted try.

They went further ahead when Celtic messed up a quick drop out 22 and conceded a scrum.

The Ammanford centre took the ball at pace and ran through the defence to touch down under the posts.

Celtic's lineout had been functioning well, with hooker Morgan Reeves finding jumper Alex Jones despite the strong wind.

Unfortunately the home team intercepted a Celtic lineout on halfway and excellent handling resulted in a try in the corner.

Ammanford ended the half with a well-taken penalty.

Celtic opened the second half with a fine try. Matthew Harris kicked a penalty to the corner, Jones won the lineout and the forwards took the ball on.

When the maul collapsed the ball was given to the backs and Kristian Jenkins ran through a gap to score under the posts. Harris converted.

Ammanford were awarded a penalty on half way and took it quickly. A Celtic player infringed and was yellow-carded.

The resulting penalty was kicked to the corner and after repeated drives hooker Morgan Reeves had to leave the field after bravely saving a try in the corner.

The home team continued to press and were rewarded when their three quarters touched down in the opposite corner.

Celtic continued to dominate up front and drove a maul from a lineout, over the try line for prop Ryan Shearan to score, which Harris converted.

Celtic's man of the match was Ryan Turner.

KS